



K.C.S. CURRENT EVENTS

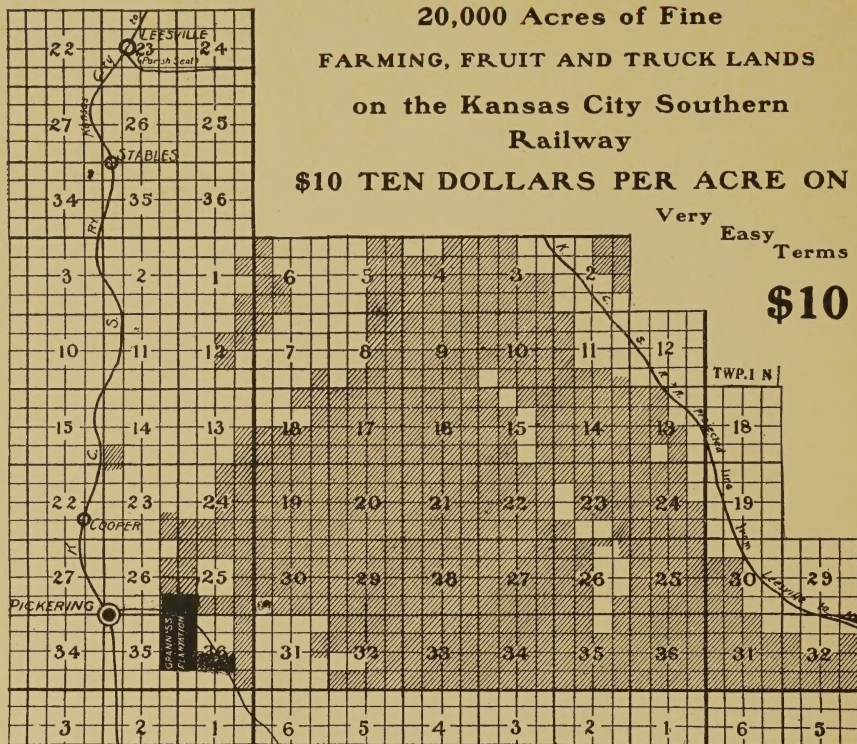
AN
INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL
MAGAZINE



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
THE KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN
RAILWAY COMPANY

J. F. HOLDEN, VICE-PRESIDENT
S. G. WARNER, GEN. PASS'GR & TKT. AGT.
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KANSAS CITY, MO.

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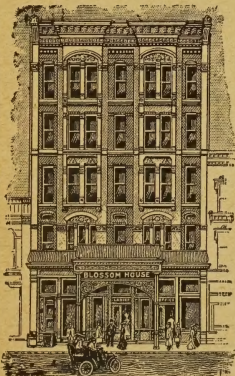
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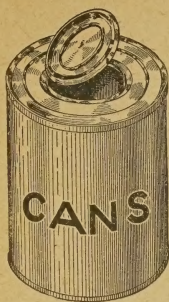
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Including 25 million ft. pine timber, 2 locomotives,
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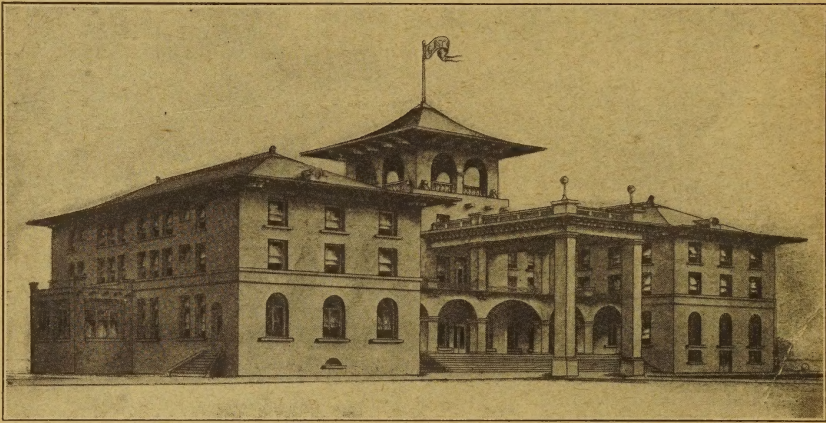
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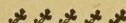
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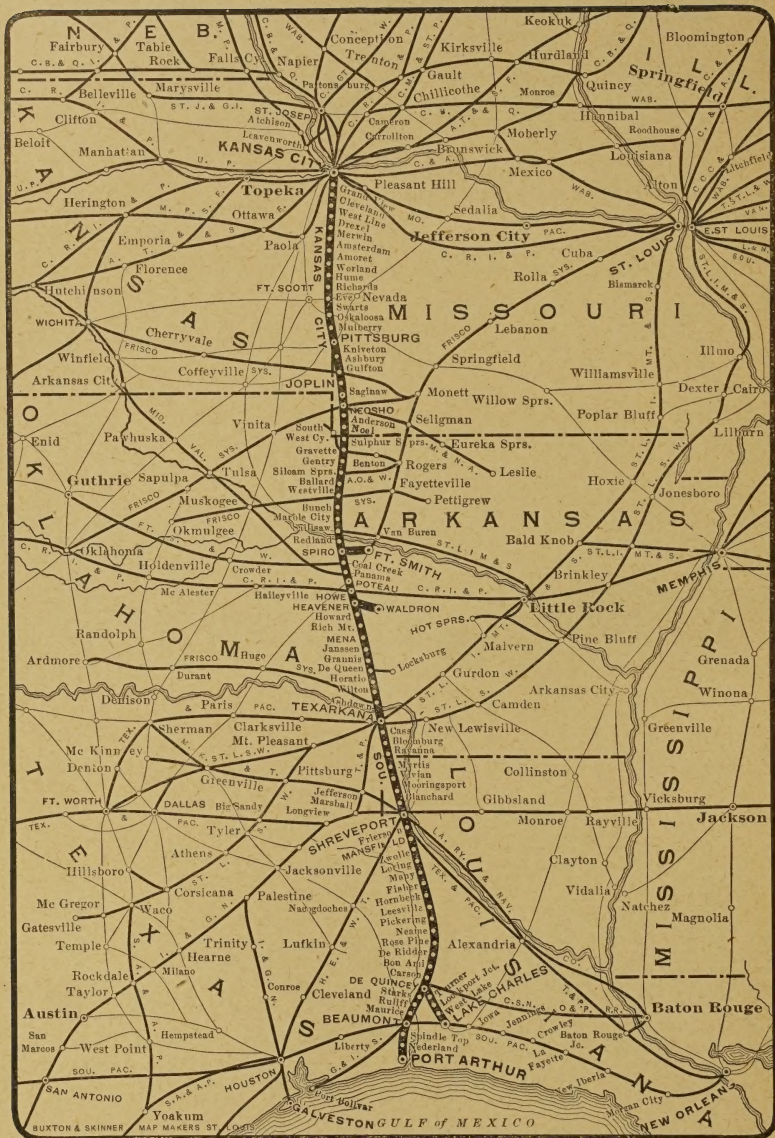
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CURRENT
NUMBER
THIRTY





MAP OF THE KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Wanderlust

Everything on earth that walks, flies, crawls or swims, is possessed with the craving to "go somewhere," and the genus homo is afflicted with that craving just as much, if not more, than any of the other inhabitants of the earth. It is the search for the unattainable engaged in by man and beast, the yearning that prompted the migrations of our forefathers, that prompted the exploration of the most remote corners of the earth, that prompted the pious swash-bucklers of a thousand years ago to seek the Holy Grail, and forms the basis of the enormous railway traffic of to-day. "There is a land that is fairer than day" is a tune the entire population of the earth is familiar with. It is therefore not an abnormal trait for mankind to be "going somewhere," and it is a yearning which is not easily suppressed. With this yearning upon us, we never realize that the spot we stand upon is the center of the universe and that the spot will be as good or as bad as we make it. Our craving, vague and indefinite as it may be, is for something better than we already have, and if we cannot find it in this world, there is a hope that we will find it beyond the grave. This craving and hope of ultimate satisfaction leads us to underestimate the value of what we already have.

The American was always a great traveler and travels more now than ever. Thirty years ago, before our railway connections were as perfect as now, there was a well-worn trail, starting in Georgia, Tennessee and Kentucky, leading to the Mississippi River, between Cairo and Helena, thence through Arkansas by way of Crowley's Ridge, through Oklahoma to Shackelford and Palo Pinto Counties in Texas. It was a well traveled road and any day in the year there could be met on it several hundred families in covered wagons who were "just goin' to wife's folks" or "just comin' from thar." The trail is used but little nowadays, but the descendants of these old-time travelers still have the "Wanderlust" and take a flyer now and then. The unattainable is still the attraction and distance lends enchantment to the view as it always did.

Last November some twenty-eight good people of Ballard, Oklahoma, started for the New El Dorado in far Washington, on the Pacific Coast. It mattered not that before their departure they were living in the richest region of the Ozarks, that five miles away was a rich little city with half a million dollars bank deposits made by the local farmers, that strawberry patches were yielding from \$150 to \$350 an acre, as they did at Siloam Springs, Gentry, Decatur, Gravette, Anderson, all within an hour's ride by rail; that every spring and summer the country was overrun with buyers from the Great Cities, importuning the residents to sell them their berries, vegetables, chickens and eggs. "The land that is fairer than day" lay on the shores of the Pacific and

thither they went. Seen at short range, the New El Dorado did not look good to the twenty-eight pilgrims from the Ozarks. Five of the families are back again in Ballard, and all the rest are working their way back to this, the best country they ever saw. One of those that returned expressed himself at follows:

"The climate of Washington is not nearly as healthful as here, and some bitter cold weather must be endured there. As for the farming and fruit raising, I would much rather take my chances with Northwest Arkansas. But let me tell you, a man can make more right here raising fruit, if he understands his business, than out there. He can live for much less and come nearer making a living here than elsewhere."

A corollary to this happening occurred near the town of Gentry, Ark., 15 miles north of Ballard, a dozen years or so ago. An old timer who owned a quarter section sold it for one hundred dollars, claiming that he could not make a living on the land. On this tract there are now twelve or thirteen fine fruit farms; each yielding a good living to the owner and his family. One acre of this land could not now be bought for what the whole 160 acres were sold for.

The Germans, in the years gone by, were more migratory than any other European people. Twenty-five to thirty years ago from one hundred and fifty thousand to two hundred thousand left Germany every year to establish homes in new climes. There is no such desire to migrate from Germany now as there was then, and an investigation as to the why and wherefore brought out the following wonderful facts:

According to the latest Year Book published by the German Government, the population of Germany on the 30th of June, 1909, was 63,886,000. This means an increase of 896,000 inside of a year. Since the founding of the German Empire there has been an increase of population of 23,000,000. Last year (1908), the first time since the establishment of the Empire in 1871, the number of emigrants from Germany has been less than 20,000; being exactly 19,880. This is a minute number for a densely settled country, and thirty years ago the annual emigration amounted, 150,000 to 200,000 persons. This condition, more than anything else, shows the material progress Germany has made. The area of Germany is no greater now than it was at the founding of the Empire. It had no Great West that it could place settlers on. Its population increased over fifty per cent on the same area, but the inhabitants have made the soil more fertile and more productive in every direction. Man, not nature, has improved the unimportant harbors for navigation. Man, not nature, improved and deepened the waterways in the interior and completed the inland navigation facilities by

a network of canals. The Germans have constantly improved the farm lands and the forests, and have developed and exploited their industrial resources. The most complete evidence thereof is that the German schools, German character and German ability have made it much easier to earn a livelihood in overpopulated Germany at the present time, than was possible at a time when the population was only one-third in number of what it is now. The German has learned to husband his resources. He has reached the unattainable and need seek no farther, and the American can learn from him a wholesome lesson.

And what have we been doing all this time? We have been wasting our substance in riotous living and are looking forward to the day when a diet of husks will look as desirable as a Delmonico dinner, and the prodigal will be unable to come to the place where abideth the fatted calf. For more than half a century we have wasted in the most shameless way our timber, our coal, our iron ore, our soils and our agricultural resources. The most magnificent forests in the world have been ruthlessly devastated and in twenty years there will be barely a stick of timber left. We willfully waste material worth millions of dollars and what we cannot use ourselves we sell abroad in order to hasten the day when we shall have no timber at all. For every pound of coal that is mined, two pounds of coal are wasted. In Germany the Government defines how timber shall be cut and how coal shall be mined in order to conserve these resources and utilize them to the greatest advantage, and with us a few thousand looters are allowed to waste and destroy without limitation. The waste for 1908, as estimated by the Government experts, is as follows:

Timber waste, by cutting, slabs, edgings, bark, \$234,000,000; Timber waste by fires, \$270,000,000; Coal waste in mining (40 to 70 per cent), \$280,000,000; Coal waste in power (93 to 95 per cent), \$560,000,000; Iron ore waste in mining, \$75,000,000; waste of agricultural product by insects, \$700,000,000; waste in agricultural products by disease, \$700,000,000; waste of agricultural products by rats, \$3,000,000; waste of cattle by disease, \$100,000,000; natural gas waste (\$1,500,000 daily),

\$552,000,000; fire loss and cost, \$615,000,000; Total, \$4,089,000,000.

The American farmer has been more prodigal than any of the industrialists, and as a matter of fact, has been the worst pirate in the lot, because his opportunities for mischief were greater. In the Eastern States are thousands of abandoned farms, abandoned because the owners through ignorance, shiftlessness or greed had allowed the soil to deteriorate until it could no longer produce. There are millions of acres which cannot now produce wheat, but produced it abundantly before the soil was worked to death. For several generations the American farmer's principal aim in life seems to have been the creation of a wornout farm and when the object was attained, to go West or to Canada or Mexico to do the same thing over again. The area of virgin soil which can be robbed with impunity is getting smaller every day, and before many days there will be no New El Dorado to go to. Crop rotation, fertilizing, intelligent farming will have to create the New El Dorado at home. The farmers of Germany have done it and the American farmer will have it to do, whether he wants to or not. The crop of 1908-1909 was large in the aggregate and so were the crops preceding for several years, yet the crop per acre was not great. The price of grain has steadily advanced until the prices of 1908-1909 show increases over those of 1898, as follows: As quoted by Mr. William C. Brown, President of the New York Central Railroad, in an address before the New England Railroad Club: "Corn, an increase of 111.2 per cent; oats, an increase of 85.1 per cent; wheat, an increase of 50.5 per cent; potatoes, an increase of 70.5 per cent; hay, an increase of 40.7 per cent. The products of the forests make an equally marvelous showing. Anthracite and bituminous coal have advanced 20 and 22 per cent, respectively; lard, 112 per cent; pork, 82 per cent; and tallow, 55 per cent."

It is evident that the production per acre is far below, in quantity of yield, what it should be. Constructive farming must take the place of destructive farming very speedily for the time is not distant when we will no longer produce enough food for home consumption.

Some Facts Concerning Cass County, Texas

Cass County Industrial League, Atlanta, Tex.

Cass County was organized on the 25th day of April, 1846, and is populated with native Texans, people from Southern States, and a growing percentage from the Northern, Eastern and Western States. As a rule our people own their own homes and are a hospitable, prosperous, law-abiding and happy people. The topography of the county is gently undulating in the northwest and the north and becoming more level as its eastern and southeastern boundaries are approached. It is a wooded country with only about 35 per cent of its

territory in cultivation, the balance covered by a rich forest of pine and hardwood timber, and there being 964 square miles in the county we have the greatest acreage of timber, especially hardwood, and with the great variety that abounds we lay a just claim to the best timbered county in Texas, but of this we will speak more fully hereafter.

Cass County is one of the finest watered counties in Texas, being bountifully supplied with wells, springs, branches, creeks, lakes and rivers. Water can be had by digging wells



Packing Peaches, Cass County, Texas

from 20 to 40 feet, pure running clear springs and branches in every quarter, and the water from the wells and springs as clear as crystal, cold, healthful and first class in every respect for drinking and laundry purposes.

There are several mineral springs in the county, noted for their health-giving waters, the most notable of which are Bangus and Hughes Springs. Hughes Springs is on the M. K. & T. R. R. Hughes Springs is a prosperous little city of about 1,500 inhabitants, enjoying a prosperous business, with good hotels and is a splendid resort for those seeking health.

There are several kinds of soil, uplands of

gray and red sandy, dark and chocolate sandy, dark to black loam and all with a red clay subsoil. The soil being impregnated with the sulphites of iron imparting flavor and color to fruits, vegetables and flowers, makes it the ideal soil for fruit and garden, and as an evidence of this fact no fruit, flower or vegetable grows in other climes with greater luxuriance and shows a better color or imparts more delicious flavors. If you have never partaken of our fruits and vegetables or beheld the beauty of our flower gardens, no description here of same could do justice. Our soil is well adapted to all other crops raised in the state and for many crops



Hauling Potatoes for Shipment, Atlanta, Texas



Strawberry Picking, March and April, Cass County, Texas

that cannot be raised on the highest priced lands in Texas.

East Texas has long been famous for fruits and vegetables. We are in the midst of the fruit belt of this country. The peach, grape and berry in this county by proper handling have proven to be highly profitable. All of the commercial peaches grow to perfection here, in size, color and flavor; the different berries are at home in this soil and climate, and several varieties of pear, apples, grape, apricot, are successfully grown. The soil, climate and annual rainfall mature all vegetables and fruits to perfection and the flavor is as good as

the best. There is no better fruit and vegetable land in Texas, and the opportunities of the fruit and truck farmer here cannot be excelled.

In addition to the fruits and vegetables, this soil produces under proper cultivation on its uplands 15 to 30 bushels of corn to the acre and double that amount on our river, creek and branch bottoms, one-third to one bale of cotton, 15 to 30 bushels of peas, and we grow twenty different kinds of field peas. The peas are planted separately, or in the corn as may suit the farmer; 20 to 30 bushels of oats, 20 to 30 bushels of peanuts, and there is no better feed for all stock, its tops making hay almost as



Harvesting the Potato Crop, in May, Atlanta, Texas



Marketing the Cotton Crop, Cass County, Texas

valuable per ton as alfalfa, and the peanut being equal to corn for fattening purposes and can be grown separately or in the corn and cotton middles; wheat 8 to 15 bushels, while barley, rye and nearly all the clovers do well and on some of our lands the finest of alfalfa can be raised; all the different grasses thrive, and our grass meadows bountifully supplied with clear running spring water and beautiful shades, rendering same second to none.

There is no better land in Texas than our branch, creek and river bottoms, making 50 to 60 bushels of corn or bale of cotton per acre, 200 to 400 gallons of ribbon cane syrup, and the

syrup is as fine as can be had in America and is sought after by the epicures and finds a ready sale at 50 to 75 cents per gallon in gallon jugs or cans. These bottom lands are also first class for fall gardening, cabbage and Irish potatoes being among the most profitable fall crops. Triumph potatoes sell in the spring for seed from \$1.00 to \$1.25 per bushel.

It may seem strange but it is true that the best farming lands in Cass County are still uncleared and can be bought very reasonably. The bottom lands were formerly largely overflowed lands, but the washing from the hills has reclaimed them, and it is now considered to be



Threshing Cowpeas, Cass County, Texas

as good farming land as there is in the state, and on these lands as well as on the uplands you can safely count on a good crop every year. We have good and bad crop years, but such a thing as the total failure has never been known in this section. That the reader hereof may have a fair idea of the crops raised in Cass County we will enumerate some of our leading crops:

Corn, cotton, peanuts, peas, sorghum, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, millet, oats, kaffir corn and milo maize, ribbon cane, clover, wheat, alfalfa, pumpkins, cashaws, watermelon, cantaloupe, barley, rye, broom corn, tobacco, cabbage, and any other field crop that can be grown in the state.

Peach, plum, fig, pear, apple, blackberry, dewberry, raspberry, strawberry, grape, apricot and quince.

Our lands are well adapted to diversified farming, and to illustrate what can be done will give statement of some crops made.

Some of our farmers plant cotton in 6 ft. rows and plant peanuts in the middle, making both a fine crop of cotton and peanuts on the same land and fatten their hogs in the cotton fields, and many other combinations can be made, but the reader can get a fair idea from above.

Such crops require land well prepared, fertilized and thoroughly cultivated, but the farmer or trucker is well paid for his labor. The yield and profit is most satisfactory, and do not lose sight of the fact that these crops can be successfully raised every year; no drouths or hot winds to burn and destroy and render nought the labor of the year.

Water is abundant, grass grows luxuriantly, climate and winter mild, requiring but little feed, and we can pasture per acre four times the number of horses and cattle than can the average Western prairie. We raise such a variety of feed stuff and in such abundance with never a failure that one year with another success is assured.



Mining Iron Ore, Cass County, Texas

Potatoes in 6 ft. rows planted in February or March and cotton planted in the middle of April or May—common result a bale of cotton and 100 bushels of potatoes raised on the same acre in one year.

Spring and fall crops of potatoes on the same acre in one year, the spring crop being planted in February or March, and the fall crop in August or September, raising 100 to 150 bushels in the spring and 50 to 100 bushels in the fall.

Spring crops of Irish potatoes. After harvesting same in June plant corn middle of June to the middle of July on the potato land, or you can plant corn and peas on the same land or sweet potatoes or a fall crop of Irish potatoes or a crop of peanuts, cabbage or onions and thus make two most profitable crops on the acre the same year.

Jim Jett, who came from Collin County, one of the best black land counties in Texas, and who is now in the stock business, last year raised 598 bales of oats on 12 acres of land and after cutting oats planted same land in whip-poorwill peas and cut and baled 800 bales of pea vine hay, making in all 1,398 bales of as fine feed stuff as can be raised, bale for bale, equal to the best alfalfa, and this crop raised on land less than one mile from Atlanta that has been in cultivation over forty years and without fertilizer. The oats were heavy and the pea vines full of matured and half matured peas. This land on which this crop was raised is not above the average of lands in the county and with the same cultivation and preparation any of our soil will do as well. If you are inclined to stock raising, make some figures on this fine

crop, one bale easily feeding three horses or more a day and keeping them in good order. The hog business could be made very profitable with the crops of corn, sorghum, peas and peanuts, sweet potatoes and other crops ready for the hog in the middle of May until the close of the year, with fine watered pastures and shade. Where can you do better than here? Cass County stands at the head of the list for the small stock farmer, including horses, mules, cattle, hogs, sheep, goats and poultry. The climate, shade and water that is ideal for the business and the great variety of feed stuffs that can be raised every year and with the most excellent small pastures, it is not a vain boast that we stand at the head of the list in stock raising.

Our iron ore is of a superior quality, and the beds of ore seem to be inexhaustible. This must in the very near future prove to be a great industry. The ore is now being mined

this county will net from \$50.00 to \$150.00 per acre. But some may claim that in the West and Middle West you can cultivate more land to the team. True, but there they raise four or five crops; here we raise many, too numerous to mention; there they often have total crop failures, here never; there they can not diversify their crops to any great extent, here there is hardly a limit to it; there in many sections their fruit and vegetable supplies are wanting, and here every family can have an abundance and second to none on earth, eaten ripe from the tree or canned for winter use or for market.

We have the soil to raise everything, the season and sunshine to mature it, the sulphites of iron to color and flavor our fruits and the health and appetite to enjoy it. Compare our section with other countries, taking into consideration our many advantages and the very low price our lands are selling at, as compared with prices of other lands in Texas, and answer,



Hauling Pine Logs to the Mill, Cass County, Texas

and shipped to other points to be smelted. The furnaces should be here on the ground and likely will be soon.

Great beds of glass sand are found here. The sand analyzes silica 99.14 per cent; oxide of iron 0.36 per cent; alumina 0.45 per cent, and is pronounced by experts to be as rich glass sands as can be found in any country, and insures the location of glass factories here when the advantages we can offer are known.

Compare our lands, the chocolate, black sandy, chocolate sandy, red sandy, gray and black dirt land, and it all depends on what you want to raise as to which is the best, with the most fertile and productive soil in Middle and West Texas, where lands sell from \$25.00 to \$100.00 per acre. It is a fine crop of wheat, corn or cotton, that on these high priced lands will produce \$20.00 to \$50.00 per acre gross. It is a common occurrence that a trucker in

don't it look good enough for you to own some of it? If you want to make a change, now is the time. Procrastination in this as in other matters of importance will hurt, as lands will never be cheaper, and with our splendid crops now approaching maturity we invite you to the land of plenty.

Atlanta, the headquarters of the Cass County Industrial League, is the principal town in the county and is a market town of a territory of a radius of 20 miles and over, with two national banks, 30 brick stores, wholesale and retail, two drug stores, four livery stables, two barber shops, electric light plant, and the streets of the city being well lighted at night, four hotels, waterworks, artesian water, six churches for the white people, and three negro churches, a fine capacious brick school building with one of the best schools in the state with free tuition for all children in the scholastic age taught nine

months in the year, two railroads—the Texas & Pacific, one of the very best railroads in Texas, passing through the eastern portion of the county and through Atlanta, the T. A. & L. that connects with the Texas & Pacific at Atlanta and the K. C. S. at Bloomburg. The K. C. S. being another great system.

Bloomburg, Texas, at the junction of the Kansas City Southern and the T. A. & L. Railroad which connects it with Atlanta, has about 650 inhabitants. It has a good school, several churches, several large mercantile firms, and handles much produce, poultry and eggs, and in 1909 shipped 1,000 bales of cotton, 15 car loads of cattle, 17 car loads of Irish potatoes, 16,000 pounds of poultry and large quantities of lumber. The town improvements consisted of 12 new dwellings, costing \$9,000; business and factory buildings, \$7,000; church, \$1,500; school repairs, \$800. The town is heated and lighted by a pipe line connecting with the Caddo Gas field. About 150 new people have settled on the adjacent lands during the year.

Cass County to-day has within her borders more hardwood timber growing suitable for commercial purposes than any other county in Texas, with Sulphur River bordering her for 30 miles on the north, Black Cypress passing through the entire western portion of the county, and every part of the county interlaced with creeks and branches with broad and extensive bottoms, on all of which is found a heavy growth of hardwood timber. Our hardwood would seem to be almost inexhaustible, and in addition to this there is yet left after sawmills have been busy for 25 years, a large acreage of fine pine timber.

We should have in Cass County factories to manufacture wagons, buggies, furniture, ax handles, veneering, brooms, boxes and baskets, and many other things that could be made from our timber.

Why not a first class cotton factory here? Texas with its vast territory, rich lands, warm and healthful climate, is to-day the greatest cotton producing country on earth, one-third of the annual crop being grown on her soil.

Our crop is shipped to other Southern States, North, and to Europe, to be manufactured, and a large portion is shipped back to us for consumption, the producer and consumer here paying the freight both ways. This is a great economic question and should be solved by Texas people with the aid of outside capital and in favor of factories in the state.

The principles of economy and good business would demand that the factory be planted by the side of the raw material, and where in Texas can this be done with greater promise to the investor than in Cass County, Texas, with natural gas for fuel, cheap labor, free factory site and free from municipal taxes the first ten years?—and the same should be said for a cotton seed oil mill and fertilizer factory, clay manufacturing works, wooden-ware works, and a glass factory for which the sand is offered free for twenty years.

All denominations are represented and suitable buildings have been erected in most every neighborhood, and places of worship are easily accessible.

The public school system for the county is excellent, and all children between 7 and 17 years can have free schooling six months in the year.

The rate of tax in Cass County for state and county purposes is 45 cents on the hundred dollars and the property generally assessed at a very low valuation. If given in at approximately its full value, the rate will be cut materially.

We have four trunk lines of railroad. The Texas & Pacific running north and south about 25 miles through the eastern portion of the county.

The Cotton Belt running in the northwest portion of the county.

The M. K. & T. running through the southwestern portion.

The K. C. S. running north and south through the extreme eastern portion of the county.

The T. A. & L. running east and west from Bloomburg to Atlanta.

Lands are appreciating rapidly in value and have doubled in value during the last few years. Improved lands range in price from \$10.00 to \$30.00 per acre, owing to improvement and location, and unimproved range from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per acre, and most of it can be bought on easy payments, one-third to one-half cash, and to those desiring to locate colonies, large tracts of farms can be had and subdivided into smaller farms and at prices that will be attractive. Titles are good.

There are about 25 cities and towns in the county, in all of which prosperous business is had. Linden is the county seat, located near the center of the county, with about 800 inhabitants, with eight or ten stores well stocked with goods, state bank and a fine school and two churches. This little city is in a good farming section of the county, with prospects of a railroad in the near future, all that is needed to make it a most attractive place to locate.

Eastern and Northeastern Texas is fast forging to the front as the most desirable part of the state. Viewed from every standpoint, there can be ultimately but one result, with our advantages in fruit and truck farming, with our annual rainfall, climate and nature of soil, well adapted to all field crops insuring success every year, with varied and abundant feed crops insured to the industrious and intelligent toiler guaranteeing success in stock and poultry raising, the tide of immigration will turn in the near future this way, and in the very near future the high priced lands of Texas must be in this section. If profits on the money or labor invested count for anything, there can, it seems, be no other result.

We want farmers from every clime to settle amongst us and help develop and bring under tillage the 75 per cent of undeveloped territory in the county.

We want capitalists and manufacturers who seek investments that will insure handsome returns to come and assist us in developing our many resources and converting our raw material into useful articles of merchandise and, finally, altogether to unite to make this the greatest country on earth.

Tonaca, the High Priest

F. E. ROESLER

"From what you say one would be led to think that all the Chihuas are fools and that there is not now, and that there never was a wise man in the tribe. Come this evening after supper, and maybe I can tell you something about one, at least, who cannot be rated as a fool."

Eusebios' house in San Elizario was open when I called with a pocketful of cigars. Three old men were with him to vouch for the correctness of his story, and my dollar's worth of cigars was well used up by the time he got through. The story was rambling and full of repetitions and an occasional correction was made by the old men, but in substance it is given below:

"It was in the days before the coming of Montezuma among the Chihua people, bestowing upon them his manifold blessings, that there lived among our people a great wise man and priest, who understood the curing of nearly all ills, who knew the sacred properties of all plants that grew, and whose prayers and incantations never failed to bring rain when it was needed. He commanded the southeast wind to sweep through the Rio Grande valley and bring with it the clouds that held the rain. His name was Coconai, and he was of the clan of the snake in which had rested for centuries the wisdom of the tribe.

The men of the clan of the antelope had been ambitious for ages to produce a great man, whose fame should reach the remotest Pueblo village, and so they did when it came to warriors and hunters; but none of that clan had been able to commune with the great Unseen, learn His secrets and acquire the wisdom and powers of priesthood. Now, among the young men of the clan of antelope was Tonaca, who frequently retired to the mountains and prayed and fasted many days, and so he did for several years until there came the year of the great drouth and the grass dried up on the plains; the game starved and died and the Rio Grande had ran so low that the people had to dig in its bed for water. Coconai had predicted this drouth the previous year and had warned all to save their corn and waste nothing.

This drouth continued into the second year, but Coconai when appealed to to pray for rain had sadly shaken his head and said that the sins of the people of Chihua had been too great and numerous, and until they had made sufficient prayer and sacrifices his and their prayers would be unheard.

Upon hearing this, young Tonaca again went to the mountains and fasted and prayed and when he returned he declared that he had seen sights and that he had received the power to make rain; that not the people of Chihua, but the clan of the snake was to blame; that the priests of this clan had grown so arrogant in their powers as to offend the great Unseen, and that he, Tonaca, was the only one in the tribe

of the Chihuas whose prayers would be heard; all those who decried his powers and did not join in the ceremonies would be severely punished and those who prayed against him would bring destruction upon the tribe. On the morrow he would pray for rain and be heard.

There was great murmuring in the tribe; some wanted to slay Tonaca at once for committing a sacrilege, others rushed to his defense and for a short time there was danger of bloodshed. The clans of the rabbit, coyote, bear and others whose interests were not affected by the rising of a new priest, threw their influence to Tonaca and so it came that he made his prayers in the morning.

And when the morrow came Tonaca mounted the highest house in the village and began his rain dance and his prayers. Below him on the ground stood the whole tribe, except the clan of the snakes, whose priests had retired to their estufa.

Tonaca prayed all day and all night and ten quiverfuls of sacred arrows he shot into the sky and when the sun resumed his walk through the sky the next day, there arose in the west a black mighty cloud which rolled rapidly eastward to meet the sun. Rolling and tumbling and roaring, it at length enveloped the village, covering it, the river and the country about, with a thick layer of acrid dust and sand. When the cloud had passed, the sun shone calmly over a desert. The growing corn, the beans and the pumpkins had been buried in the sand brought by the cloud and the little water there was in the river had been sucked up and for the people of Chihua there was nothing to eat and nothing to drink. When the people of Chihua realized the magnitude of their disaster, they cried aloud in their wrath: "Slay the impostor; sacrifice him! stone him! stone him!"

But Tonaca was wise if not beloved of the great Unseen. For when he beheld the disaster he had wrought, he sprang from the roof and fled for his life, and though they sought him far and near they found him not, nor any traces to show whither he had gone. It was a hard winter for the people of Chihua; some died of starvation, but the next year and many thereafter were years of plenty.

The clans of the antelope, rabbit, coyote and bear admitted their error in supporting Tonaca in his claims to the priesthood and in atonement made the proper prayers and sacrifices, and so for a third of a generation the priests of the clan of snakes reigned supreme in all earthly and spiritual matters. As to Tonaca, it was believed that the evil spirit of the sand storm had carried him off in punishment for his sacrilegious work. Later on it was rumored that he would return again, possessed of powers mightier than ever for good or evil.

And after one-third of a generation, in the midst of a terrific rainstorm there came back

to the village of Chihua in the robes of a high priest, Tonaca. The people had forgotten their anger but remembering their disaster fled from him as from an evil spirit. Coconai and the priests of the clan of the snakes, though fearing him, defied him and warned the people to deny him shelter and food.

Tonaca in his wrath walked through the streets of Chihua, and waving his sacred wand of eagle feathers proclaimed aloud that he was the master of the waters and that in three days he would cause the waters of the Rio Grande to flood the valley from mesa to mesa, unless the whole tribe appeared before him with proper deference. Before daylight came, the next day, the river had risen beyond its banks and the irrigation ditches began to break and the water to creep in the low places between the houses. Then came timidly the men, women and children and the priests of the clan of the snake and in proper deference acknowledged their error, and Tonaca addressed them and said: "The waters shall subside and do you no harm. A third of a generation has passed since I prayed for you for rain; Coconai, the sorcerer, and the other priests prayed against me and so did many others, and those that trifle with sacred things are punished. Me, the exalted, the cloud carried to the place from which comes the rain, and there my powers over the waters have increased. It is now ordered that Coconai and the nine other priests of the clan of snakes go with me to the place whence comes the rain and where I will show them who controls the movement of the waters."

It was a long weary journey of sixty days to the West that Tonaca led Coconai and the nine old men of the clan of the snakes. Finally they came to the great sea to the West and Tonaca led the ten to a small hill on a level plain on the edge of the sea and far away from the hills. On this hill he bade them pray and declared that he would pray and cause the waters to rise.

Tonaca prayed long and earnestly and all around him the water began to rise through the ground. The waves began to rise and flow toward the hill on which they stood. The great plain was covered with water, which rose to the top of the hill and lapped the feet of Coconai and his priests. The waves rose higher and higher and up to their armpits and

buffeted them to and fro and all around them was a waste of waters, and Coconai and the priest of the clan of the snake besought Tonaca to cease his prayers, but he heeded them not until the water had reached their chins. Then he declared that he would pray for the waters to subside, and behold the waters began to fall away and each wave became smaller and as the sun was setting the plain was again dry and they walked back to their camping place. On the morrow Tonaca ordered them again to the hill, but the ten priests prostrated themselves before him and acknowledged him to be the high priest of the people of Chihua. Before returning home Tonaca declared that he would pray that the waters rise and fall ever thereafter and pledged the clan of the snake to send a priest to the great sea once every ten summers to see that the waters rose and fell as he had bidden, and they did so for several generations.

When Coconai returned to Chihua, he and his priests heralded the wonderful news far and wide, and no one thereafter questioned the miraculous powers of Tonaca, who lived for many years among the tribes on the Rio Grande and was in the highest repute as the most powerful priest the Pueblos had produced. He made many new laws and introduced new ceremonies and made the antelope a priestly clan.

Several generations after his death came Montezuma, the great teacher and prophet, and as the burning fogot is to the sunlight, so was the memory of Tonaca lost in the glory of Montezuma.

Many generations after Montezuma, whose memory is still alive among our people, came the conquistadores and a new priesthood. To one of the new priests was related the story of Tonaca, master of the waters, and at the ending of the story this priest and a number of others nearly fell from their chairs with laughter, and this priest then explained to our people that the great sea in the West had fallen and risen for ages before Tonaca was born, that the tide moved in and out forever, and the last priest of the Chihuas, who surreptitiously visited the sea, now called Golfo de California, made diligent inquiry and it was indeed so; Tonaca, the priest of the antelope clan, was indeed a wise man, for he had hoodwinked the tribes along the Rio Grande for five generations.

Homeseekers' Excursions

ROUND TRIP HOMESEEEKERS' EXCURSION
Tickets will be on sale from Kansas City, Mo., and practically all points in Kansas, (except Pittsburg,) Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Illinois to all points on the Kansas City Southern Railway, the first and third Tuesday of every month during 1910. These homeseekers' tickets are governed by the following rules: Limit twenty-five days from date of sale, which is the

first and third Tuesday of every month. Stop-overs will be allowed on going trip within fifteen days from date of sale and on return trip within final limit at all points on our line south of Cleveland, Mo. Free side trips en route south-bound from Spiro to Fort Smith and return and from Beaumont to Port Arthur and return, on application to conductor, to passengers holding homeseekers' tickets.

Some Observations on McDonald County, Missouri

McDonald is the most southwesterly county in the state of Missouri, forming the southwest corner. It is situated on the northwestern slope of the Ozark mountains, and its altitudes along the Kansas City Southern Railway vary from 900 to 1,250 feet. The surface is more or less broken, about seventy per cent being tillable land, the remainder affording good pasturage. The climate is mild and healthful. The water supply is very abundant, consisting of thousands of fine springs and numerous swiftly flowing mountain streams of the purest water to be found anywhere. The annual rainfall is 39 inches and there are no stagnant waters anywhere to breed mosquitoes and malaria.

The Kansas City Southern Railway traverses the county from north to south, and along this railway are the towns of Goodman, population 280; Anderson, population 900; Lanagan, population 450; Elk Springs, population 50; and Noel, population 500. During the past year, 1909, they jointly enjoyed an increase of population of 400, opened up 91 new farms, and made town improvements to the value of \$80,500. All the towns, except Anderson, were seen only from the car window, but at Anderson the writer stopped for a day or two and made the following observations:

The town of Anderson has 900 inhabitants, nearly all of whom are interested in agricultural pursuits or in mercantile lines associated with an agricultural community. It has a new high school building, a bank with \$25,000 capital, and three religious congregations. The growth of the town during the year 1909 shows forty new dwellings, costing from \$800 to \$2,000 each, and eight new brick, stone and cement buildings, part of which have been erected to replace older frame buildings. A municipal waterworks system and a fruit and vegetable cannery, to be erected in the near future, are in contemplation. The activity on the adjacent farm and fruit lands is shown in 250 land sales, varying from ten to eighty-acre tracts and the settlement in the immediate vicinity of 217 new families.

The great orchard of the Ozark Orchard Co. at Goodman and Lanagan has been divided into smaller tracts of ten and twenty acres and is being rapidly settled upon by newcomers.

The general field crops grown in the neighborhood of Anderson, Mo., and also in the entire county, are corn, wheat, oats, and forage crops of all descriptions. The lowlands are best adapted to these crops, and the yield is very satisfactory. Corn in a good season will yield 65 bushels to the acre on bottom lands, and forty to forty-five bushels on the uplands. Wheat runs from 17 to 25 bushels and oats from 50 to 75 bushels. The grain grown within a radius of eight miles of Anderson, keeps the roller mill of 500 barrels capacity busy all the year around. The flour turned out is of excellent quality.

McDonald County is particularly rich in the growth of wild grasses, all good for pasturage. Kentucky blue grass and Japan clover have spread to nearly all parts of the county. Much

of the wild grass will yield from one to two tons of good hay to the acre. Timothy, blue stem, cowpeas, alfalfa and red clover yield full crops. Under the conditions as they obtain in this county stock raising is a profitable business. Hog raising is the principal animal industry, though large numbers of sheep are also raised. Cattle raising and dairying is also profitable. The long grazing season, the abundance of pure water and the fine climate tend to make this locality ideal for this particular pursuit.

The mineral resources of McDonald County have not been sufficiently developed to demonstrate their commercial value. Several gas wells in and around Anderson yield a limited supply, oil in small quantity has been, and indications of lead, zinc and tripoli are frequently found.

All of the county was originally timbered, and where not cleared for cultivation there is still considerable valuable timber. There are a few small areas of prairie. The upland soils are generally very fertile, containing lime, magnesia and iron with a subsoil of porous red clay. In places the soil is covered with a thin layer of loose gravel, which might appear uninviting to the newcomer, but is appreciated by the fruit and berry grower who considers its presence a decided advantage. The valley and bottom lands are heavier in texture and darker in color, and are rated as good corn and grain lands.

The uplands and particularly such as are convenient to town and railway, produce the money-making crops of the county, and of these the strawberry is the principal reliance.

In this vicinity, strawberries mature ten days earlier than those of Neosho, eighteen miles further north, and even sooner than at some points farther south. The "Aroma" berry is the preferred variety, and during the last four years its cultivation has proven itself highly profitable. The berries at Anderson have regularly reached the market at the proper time and were of such fine quality as to bring from fifty to seventy-five cents more per crate than any other berry.

The annual yield per acre is from eighty to one hundred crates and sometimes more, depending on the attention given to the cultivation of the crop. Fifty car loads of this fruit were shipped from Anderson during the season of 1909. The acreage in bearing for 1910 is estimated at one thousand acres. Some of the cash money returns from this crop are astonishing, running as they do from \$100 to \$400 per acre and most of the yields over \$200 per acre. The gross income from strawberries in 1908 was at Anderson, \$33,748, and in 1909 it was \$58,684. About one-third has since been added to the acreage. The poultry and egg shipments for 1908 brought \$95,540, and the shipments of timber and ties, \$145,331. The garden produce marketed in 1909 is valued at \$20,000. A sweet potato crop is estimated to be worth per acre, \$250; cabbage, \$150; tomatoes, \$200; onions, \$250; cantaloupes,

\$250; watermelons, \$150. The estimates of shipments for 1909, exclusive of strawberries already mentioned, is, for poultry and eggs, \$200,000; for timber and ties, \$290,662.

Apples, peaches, pears and other tree fruits are successfully grown. Peaches are somewhat irregular in production and a scant apple crop is an occasional happening. There are over 2,000 acres of apple and peach orchards within eight miles of Anderson. The preferred varieties of apples grown are the Jonathan, York Imperial, Grimes Golden, Rambo and others. The peaches grown are the Mountain Rose, Elberta and Crawford as leaders. Other varieties are grown, but the preferred market peaches are those named. Blackberries and raspberries are more or less extensively grown and marketed.

As stated above, the climate of McDonald

County is pleasant and healthful, the scenery in places is splendid, and the opportunities to earn a livelihood in agricultural or horticultural pursuits uncommonly good, and all things considered it is a good country to live in or to visit for a vacation. Lands can be had in any desired acreage and the prices are such that in McDonald County a man with a lean pocket-book can get a foothold.

To the visitor in summer who wants to do some fishing, the county offers many attractions. The Elk River flows within easy reach at Elk Springs and Noel, Indian Creek flows past Lanagan and Big Sugar, Little Sugar, and Buffalo Creek are easily reached from Anderson. All of them are well stocked with bass, perch, blue channel cat and other game fishes.

Tripoli Mining in Newton County, Missouri

Neosho, Mo., famous for its great strawberry crop and also for the output of lead and zinc in the neighborhood, is also the leading point for the tripoli industry, which in itself is quite an important source of income.

The tripoli mined in the United States comes from Missouri and Illinois. The material produced in Union County, Illinois, is called silica by the Illinois state geological survey, but the suggestion has been made that it has essentially the same origin as the well known tripoli deposits of Newton County, Missouri.

The tripoli deposits worked at the present time in Missouri are located near Seneca and Racine, Newton County. They occur in the Boone formation in bodies from four to twelve feet thick. The material is a light, even-textured rock, fairly tenacious after drying, but more or less friable when mined. It is extremely porous and light; hence the term "cotton rock" which is sometimes applied to it. No trace of fossils of any kind has been found in the deposits. The material runs over 98 per cent in silica. It is thought to have been derived from a fine, granular, and non-fossiliferous limestone from which the calcareous material has been leached, leaving the silica in a thoroughly porous condition.

The tripoli is usually massive, with scarcely a trace of stratification, but is divided by various systems of joints into blocks of varying sizes. Chert in lenses or balls is commonly associated. After removing a thin mantle of clay, gravel, and residual chert from the tripoli, the material is quarried by the methods described below:

Vertical channels twelve inches wide are cut to the bottom of the deposit, or to such depth as is desired. These channels are easily made with a light pick of ordinary shape. Where the rock is much cut up by fissures and clay seams the channels are cut along the more prominent of these joints, to lose as little as possible of the dimension stone. A two-inch hole is then drilled between the ends of the

channels, filled with unslacked lime, and tamped. By absorption of quarry sap the lime is slacked, swells, and lifts the stone, the steadily increasing pressure having a tendency to loosen up the blocks along the already existing joints rather than to make new fractures.

The shape and size of the blocks thus obtained depend on the number and attitude of the joints.

The larger blocks of good quality are sent directly to the filter shop. Spalls and pieces not suitable for filters are sent to the dry sheds to be later ground into tripoli flour. When rock for grinding only is desired, that is to say, when it is too much jointed or for some other reason is unsuitable for filter stones, powder is used instead of lime in raising the rock, as it gives blocks of smaller size and saves some hand-breaking before crushing.

Where the rock is not so closely beset with joints and fractures, narrow two-inch cross channels are cut the length of the handle with a narrow-eyed pick, the eye being no wider than the cutting edge of the pick. In this way pieces of regular dimensions are obtained. Blocks two by two by five feet are as large as are ordinarily desired.

The rough blocks from the quarry are taken directly to the mill and are there ultimately turned into filter stones of various sizes and shapes. These are made on regular turning lathes. Defective blocks, trimmings, and the dust go to the tripoli flour mill. After thorough drying the material is crushed, ground, and bolted. Two grades are marketed, depending on the degree of fineness; the grade known as O. G. (once ground) will pass through a sixty-mesh sieve, and that known as D. G. (double ground) will pass through a 140-inch sieve. Three colors of the tripoli flour are made—white, cream and rose. The material is sacked or barreled and shipped like ordinary flour. This fine material is used almost entirely as an abrasive.

The Lands of Sabine Parish, Louisiana

H. A. MINER, ZWOLLE, LA.

The location of Sabine Parish is near Central Louisiana, north and south, and forms a part of the state's western border, adjoining East Texas, the Sabine River dividing them. The Sabine River is navigable as far north as Logansport, Louisiana.

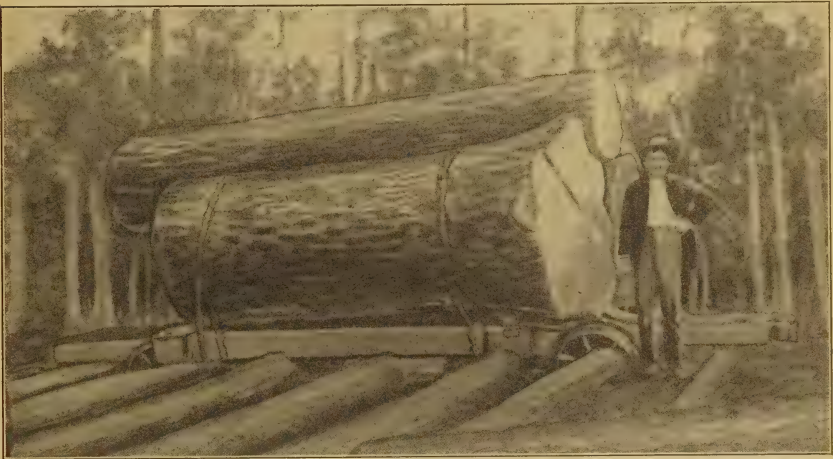
Sabine Parish ranks among the highest in the state as to elevation. The soil consists of hilly and bottom lands, either of which will produce an abundance of fruit or truck.

Land in this part of Louisiana is very cheap, exceptionally cheap compared with other localities, and an explanation concerning this condition is necessary.

Years ago this land of ours was a dense pine forest. The Northern mill and lumber men came here and bought it all at a small cost per

land is now selling at \$100 per acre, and every foot of it utilized.

That is just the condition that is facing us here in Louisiana. That is the reason that land is good and yet so cheap here. Can you not remember when land could be bought in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas for a few dollars per acre? Of course you can. But you can't buy it now for any price. Immigration did that for Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, and it will do so for Louisiana. In the next five years Louisiana will be a great state among states. Louisiana has no farmers outside of immigrants who know anything about diversifying. The natives, believing cotton to be their only crop, were content with a profit of \$15 per acre, when much more should have



White Oak Logs on Way to the Mill, Zwolle, Louisiana

acre. They put in large sawmills and cut the timber into lumber. Now that the timber is all cut, what are they to do? Go to a new field more suitable to their needs. But what must they do with their land, pay taxes on thousands of acres that are worthless to them, or must they just allow it to revert back to the state for delinquent taxes? No! They must put it in the hands of real estate men who will divide it into farms and sell it, even at a great sacrifice, that they may close out their holdings in the field; sell it to immigrants is the only salvation of the lumber man. Why was land in your country selling to your grand and great grandfathers at \$4 to \$5 per acre years ago? Now, was it not undeveloped? That was just the reason. People began to immigrate from thickly settled states and the result was that

been obtained. This land is especially adapted for fruit, and with the weather conditions as they are, why could a man not have his living easy?

Much of the land here is under cultivation and lots of it can be easily cleared one acre per day per man.

The earnings per acre are: In onions, \$100 per acre; watermelons, \$100 per acre; cantaloupes, \$76 per acre; cabbage, \$75 to \$100 per acre; beans and peas, \$75 to \$100 per acre; tomatoes, \$100 easy per acre. One immigrant from Mississippi raised and canned 1,000 cans of tomatoes last year from one acre here, and sold every one of them to the general store of the Sabine Lumber Co. at 10 cents per can. From Irish potatoes you can easily make \$75 per acre, and by planting them in January



Pine Lumber Mill, Zwolle, La.

you can market them in May, and raise a second crop of sweet potatoes and make \$50 more off the same land the same year. Now, these figures are actually very low as compared with what is being done. Strawberries are easily good for \$125 per acre, and you can get them on the market the last of March. Radishes are worth \$100 per acre, lettuce \$75 per acre and Tabasco peppers \$400 to \$500 per acre. The above figures are all conservative and if you will only examine the statistics you will find that I have not made it appear nearly so profitable as the state and government reports.

I wish to call your attention to one thing. Apples do well here, but have not the flavor or good tastes that they have in the Northern states. Figs, a fruit that the Northern man never sees except in the preserved state, do well here on any kind of land and without any care at all. They bear fruit for two months in the year and command a good price. They are worth \$2 per bushel at all times, this being the only fruit that bears without blooming. The finest and largest pears in the United States are produced here in Louisiana on the hilly land. Strawberries, blackberries and dewberries grow luxuriantly here. The dewberry grows wild



Fishing in Blue Lake, near Zwolle, La.

here as large and palatable as the cultivated ones do in the North. The same can be truthfully said of the blackberry, while the strawberry demands some attention, but does well on any land in the state. The grape does equally as well as the other fruits mentioned.

There is no stock law in this parish; you can allow your hogs and cattle to roam the many thousands of acres of woodlands that lie before them. With a goodly supply of grass and pasture the entire year, you can raise your stock and market them without the heavy outlay for feedstuffs you are now having to buy up in your country. Your stock never needs shelter except from the rain, as cold, freezing weather is unknown in this country.

Sheep, cattle and hog raising are very profitable here, as you have plenty of water and pasture free the year round. There is at present a large packing house under advisement at Shreveport. When this is finished you will be only 65 miles from the market which will place your stock closer to market than you now are up North.

If you are not well provided with worldly goods, what can you hope to have in the North in the next few years? Are not the people clamoring for every square foot of land at \$100 per acre and upwards? You must get in a new field where land is good and also cheap, and secure enough for each child, as your grandfather did years ago.

If you have \$1,000 you can get 160 acres of as good hill land as lies in the United States, land that will produce as shown above. If you have \$500 you can buy 60 or 80 acres for it, and if you have less you can still buy a farm and make part payment, or you can buy a truck patch on small payments.

Good building material costs \$7 to \$8 per thousand feet, and fuel you will never have to buy.

No better field for the dairy business could you find should you travel from coast to coast. Your pasture free to you the year round, and milk 10 cents per quart, and good butter correspondingly high. This is also an ideal country for poultry, as you have a ready market for your eggs and early fryers. The climate being warm, your fowls will produce the whole year round.

As the weather is cold up in your country, I will make mention of the weather conditions here. During the years 1908 and 1909 I never saw the thermometer register lower than one degree below freezing, and that only one morning. The citizens remarked that it was an unusually cold winter, and you would naturally think that, it being so pleasant here in the winter, it would be very hot in the summer, but this is not the case. I have never known

a man to be overheated by the sun's rays. Here in this country you will sleep under a comfort more nights in the summer than you will in the North. You must remember you are close to the Gulf, and a good cool Gulf breeze is available the entire summer. The climate is as delightful the year round as your heart could desire. If the opportunity was awarded you, money could not buy you a more desirable climate. The rainfall here is just as near perfect as any other part of the United States you could locate in—no irrigating done here whatever.

You having children will want to know something of the schooling facilities. This country has splendid schools in the towns and also in the rural districts, the same as you have in your country. Churches of all denominations are located in this country. This section is in every sense up-to-date, being only short in development. It is just now undergoing a change of industries, from sawmilling to farming and fruit raising. Some people will ask where we will market all those vegetables and fruits? Well, let me tell you: you are located on the Kansas City Southern railroad, a direct trunk line to the Kansas City markets. It also connects at Texarkana with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern, giving you a direct line to St. Louis and all Eastern and Northern markets. You can gather your early garden truck and send it to the Northern markets while it is yet cold up there. Crops can be gathered two weeks earlier here in the spring than they can in either California or Florida. You can see that you can beat those states, getting the first and top notch price for your early crops.

If you like to hunt or fish now and then, Sabine Parish is the place to do it in. Her lands have many fishing places, consisting of a few beautiful lakes and many all-year creeks, all of which abound with trout, white perch, crappie, catfish and numerous other species of fish. Her woods afford excellent hunting at all seasons. Quail by the countless millions, wild turkey, hare and deer roam the woods, but, unlike most territory affording such game, there are no animals destructive to stock you would wish to raise.

Many, La., the county seat, is a fine little town of about 1,500 to 2,000 people, and Zwolle has about 3,000, three churches, a bank, two sawmills and excellent school building, and the people in both places are as clever and accommodating as you ever had the pleasure to meet. If you would like to be more fully informed, write to me or the Bank of Zwolle at Zwolle, La., and I shall take pleasure in supplying the desired information.

Texarkana—Arkansas—Texas

A WORD FROM THE BOOSTERS CLUB

Texarkana has a unique position, being located in both Arkansas and Texas, about half of the town in each state. When the town was first laid out it was thought that it was located at the corner of three states and the name was made up as follows—Tex-Ark-Ana (from Louisiana)—Texarkana. Later it was found that the town was about twenty miles north of the line of Louisiana. The population of the town is between twenty-five and thirty thousand. Railroad facilities are excellent; the Kansas City Southern running north and south; the Iron Mountain north; the Cotton Belt northeast and southwest; the Texas Pacific south, southwest and west; gives us eight different ways of shipping. \$200,000 is invested in school buildings and when the new high school building is completed—now under course of construction—over \$300,000 will have been invested. The investment in church properties amounts to over \$350,000. The religion and education of Texarkana's inhabitants are not neglected. \$250,000 is now being spent on good roads in and within ten miles of Texarkana. Texarkana has an unusual number of courts and the attendance at them brings many dollars to its inhabitants. Two branches of the Federal Court, one for Southwest Arkansas and one for Northeast Texas; a branch of the Texas Court of Appeals, Chancery, Circuit and County Court of Miller County, Arkansas.

Within the past year fifteen brick mercantile buildings have been erected, \$100,000 spent on a union depot, \$125,000 being spent in erection of cotton seed oil mill, and, about January 1st, \$300,000 are to be expended in the erection of another oil and fertilizer mill. \$50,000 is now being spent on Cotton Belt Railroad freight depot; the Kansas City Southern is spending many dollars in enlarging its yards; the Gulf Cooperage Company is now spending a large sum in enlarging its plant; the National Lumber Company has just started the erection of a new creosoting plant, to be one of the largest in the world; the Post Pipe Company, sewer pipe manufacturers, has greatly enlarged its plant. The outlook for the year 1910, in Texarkana, never was brighter, as we have many industries enlarging and have several large plants negotiating with us for locations, and several have decided to locate with us, but at this time do not care for their names to be given. We have also the promise of two more railroads for 1910; one is now within fifteen miles of us.

Aside from the fact that Texarkana has exceedingly fine location in regard to manufacturing plants, we are on the state line and shipments can be made to Texas point under the commission rate and to Arkansas under the Arkansas commission rate, either one of which is much cheaper than interstate rates.

One of the best things that Texarkana has to offer to manufacturers is natural gas for fuel, at 10 cents per 1,000 feet. One of our largest manufacturers states that with the use of natural gas for fuel the cost of his product was reduced 63 per cent. That is not bad. Natural gas for domestic uses is sold at 24 cents per 1,000 feet, which is about one-third the cost of wood or coal, besides cutting out the labor of handling.

Natural advantages in raw material—

It is hard to find a town that has the many things to offer the manufacturer in the raw state, cotton in abundance, clays of all kinds, from common brick clay to the finest potter's, and within seventy miles of us with a low inbound freight rate, the finest of kaolin, timbers of all kinds, such as oak, ash, gum, cottonwood, elm, hickory, pine and cypress, logs and lumber at exceedingly low prices; an abundance of iron ore within thirty miles, with a low inbound rate; all kinds of farm products, in fact almost anything that a manufacturer can ask for. With our low inbound rates and with the whole of Arkansas and Texas as a market, with better freight rates than any place outside of either state can get, and with lower or equal rates to points in Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Old Mexico, we have an immense advantage both as a manufacturing and distributing center.

Farming lands—

Our farming lands are especially adapted to fruit, truck, cotton and corn. Improved farms three miles and further out from Texarkana can be had at from ten to twenty-five dollars per acre. School facilities in the rural districts are good. Our winters are mild, our summers are such that from two to four crops of almost any product can be raised. Stock and hogs need but little attention and thrive. Chickens, eggs and butter demand a good price the year round, as do also all classes of farm products. On many products our farmers get double the cost per acre of the land that raises the crop. Ribbon-cane nets about sixty dollars an acre, peanuts from thirty to sixty, sweet potatoes from forty to eighty, Irish potatoes from thirty to one hundred, native grasses from fifteen to forty, onions from forty to one hundred and fifty. By these figures we mean net after cost of raising and marketing is deducted. On ninety-nine out of every hundred farm products a farmer can raise enough per acre to buy the land he raises it on.

Texarkana offers inducements to manufacturers and those who are seeking to better themselves. To those willing to hustle Texarkana offers unexcelled opportunities.

Any inquiries in regard to this section will be gladly answered. Address, Boosters Club, Texarkana, U. S. A.

Polk County, Arkansas

Polk County, Arkansas, is a beautifully situated mountain county on the western border of the State adjoining Oklahoma. The surface is rolling, traversed by picturesque ranges of mountains and several large streams. The altitude varies from 1,000 to 3,000 feet above sea level, and the climate by reason of the latitude and altitude is delightful and very healthful. The climatic conditions of the country are as near perfect for health and comfort as nature can make them, as the meteorological extremes of the North and South seem to meet here and effect a compromise. In other words, it seldom gets very hot in summer or cold in winter, constituting an ideal summer resort for Southern people and a winter resort for people from the North. All things considered, it is an ideal healthful country to live in. The average rainfall is over 50 inches annually, but during 1909 the precipitation was below the normal, and in this connection it may be stated that this part of Arkansas fared better during the drought than almost any other part of the State or of the United States where dry weather had prevailed. There was more and better corn in this section in 1909 than at the same time the preceding year, and nearly every farmer has a surplus of grain and other feed.

While the county has been settled for more than sixty years, very little development was made before the construction of the Kansas City Southern Railway, which traverses the county for a distance of sixty-two miles north and south. With the incoming of this great railroad and the influx of capital and population, rapid development has been made along all lines. New prosperous towns came into existence, new industries were developed, and new life was instilled into a stagnant region. Before the advent of the railroad, only such crops as could stand slow and tedious transportation could be grown to advantage and this condition confined agricultural effort almost entirely to the production of cotton. Scattered through the county were twelve to fifteen small trading towns and villages, which still exist and have grown, but the real progress was made along the railway. The new towns are Mena, county seat, with a population of 7,000, Rust with 100, Cove, 650, Grannis, 500, Vandervoort, 600, Wickes, 253, Hatfield, 950, Acorn, 100, Eagleton, 50, Hatton, 150—all of them growing and surrounded by a constantly increasing acreage of fruit, truck, agricultural and stock farms.

The splendidly improved transportation facilities made possible an enormous enlargement in variety and quantity of production, and in point of profit, the various kinds of fruits, such as apples, peaches, all varieties of berries and the various forms of commercial truck, take the lead, but the corn, cotton, small grains, tobacco, domestic grasses, clovers and other forage crops are very profitably grown.

The market facilities for fruit and truck are excellent, as the products from this county reach the market between the early output of the Southern States and the home-grown products of the North. In other words, Polk County products have their day in the market and will make the growers rich if they will improve their opportunities.

The growth of the county has been steady for the last eight or nine years. The development in the last three years has been as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Value of real estate, 1906..... | \$1,322,453.00 |
| Value of personal property, 1906..... | 2,000,784.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Total valuation, 1906..... | \$3,323,237.00 |
|----------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Value of real estate, 1909..... | \$1,630,920.00 |
| Value of personal property, corporations, etc..... | 2,150,800.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Total valuation, 1909..... | \$3,781,720.00 |
|----------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Increase in three years..... | \$358,483.00 |
|------------------------------|--------------|

An increase in tax valuations of necessity shows an increase in population and industrial development, and this fact is readily recognized in the many new farms and orchards in the country, and the new buildings and other improvements in the towns.

Nearly all of Polk County was originally covered with forest, though a very large acreage is now in cultivated farms. Yellow pine and all kinds of hardwood timbers are still abundant, and in several parts of the county a large saw-mill and wood working industry is carried on. The general contour of the country is that of rolling or undulating land, traversed by numerous small streams, which are fed by thousands of living springs of pure, soft water. All these streams have a rapid flow over clean gravel beds, and there is not an acre of stagnant water or a mosquito in the county. Small ranges of mountains cross the country in places, but probably three-fourths or more of the area is tillable.

The surface soil is composed of about equal parts of clay and sand, and the subsoil is in general a deep red clay. The soil constituents occur in varying proportions in different localities. All the new land is not only very fertile, but old land, even after years of cultivation, is susceptible of producing wonderful results if properly handled. Farmers and fruit growers fully understand the value of these red subsoils. They form the correct foundation for the successful production of a great variety of crops on the farm, the orchard or the garden. Being protected by the mountain ranges, fruit is seldom injured during the winter and early spring, and peaches will ordinarily yield a fine crop when they fail elsewhere. Polk County, by reason of its altitude, also produces excellent winter apples in large quantity and with

greater certainty than do the sections generally credited with superiority in apple production; this statement can be safely applied to all other tree fruits and berries. Practical experience in this section has demonstrated that success does not depend so much upon the number of acres cultivated, as it does upon how thoroughly the cultivation is done. A man with a very limited capital can make more clear money on a ten-acre tract of fruit land in Polk County than he can on a cotton plantation of large proportions. Through the organization of the Polk County Horticultural Society and other local fruit and truck growers' associations, the small fruit grower is enabled to obtain as good returns and has the same advantage as the largest planter, as their shipments are made jointly in car lots and to the best markets obtainable.

Very few sections of country are so well adapted as is Polk County to the profitable raising of horses, mules, cattle, hogs and sheep. The native pasturage is excellent, the water the purest and of the best in the United States, and forage can be most cheaply grown in any desired quantity. Owing to the mild winter climate very little shelter is required and much less feeding is needed than in the Northern States.

The timber resources of Polk County deserve special mention, and aside from the pine timber these resources are only partially developed. When the railroad was built through this county numerous sawmills were established along the line and the farmers for miles in every direction cut down their stately pine trees and hauled them in to the mills at fifty cents per thousand feet. Money was a scarce commodity in those days and a fifty-cent piece looked much larger than it does now. There is still considerable pine timber left, however, and several sawmills and planing mills are still in operation. The annual output of pine lumber will probably amount to three-quarters of a million dollars and the output of hardwood timber in ties and staves will amount to nearly as much. The hardwood timber in this part of the country has not been slaughtered like the pine and the time is close at hand when it will prove one of the most valuable natural assets of the country. This timber consists of white oak, post oak, red oak, ash, wild cherry, walnut and hickory, and is all suitable for furniture, berry crates, boxes, handles, hubs, and all kinds of buggy, wagon and automobile timber. Manufacturers of hardwood articles of all kinds will do well to examine the timber supply of Polk County, where they will find in abundance all the desired raw material, and for certain lines of manufacture, like furniture, fruit and berry boxes, a very good home market. The railway facilities are excellent and the finished product can be shipped as cheaply from this county as from elsewhere.

The mineral resources of the county have attracted the attention of prospectors and investors for a great many years. In fact, there are old shafts in different localities which were sunk so long ago that the oldest inhabitants can give no account of them, and there are evidences in all directions of extensive prospecting having been done in recent years.

Mining operations in this country have been carried on in a desultory manner and no systematic, scientific mining has been done. Nature points the way to all her resources, be they on the surface of the earth or far below, and in all the crude prospecting made in this part of the state the indications have pointed to profitable ores at a greater depth. Good indications of lead, zinc, silver, copper, gold and antimony have been found in many places, but few of the prospectors had sufficient means to carry on their work far enough to make a mine of a prospect. The underflow of water has hitherto proven the most serious obstacle to mining, and adequate pumping machinery will be required to overcome it. So far, the most extensive prospecting has been done near Cove and Acorn in Polk County and near Gillham in the adjoining Sevier County, the indications at the first named places showing the presence of gold, silver, lead and zinc, and the last named, silver, lead and antimony. The developments made at the antimony mines near Gillham, indicate the richest deposits of this valuable ore ever discovered in the United States, and in this connection it may be stated that a syndicate of capitalists from Buffalo and Rochester, N. Y., is now making preparations to develop these mines on an extensive scale.

Iron ore and manganese ore are found in many places in the county. No systematic effort has been made to determine the quantity available. It has not been determined whether or not the iron ores, which occur in fissure veins, are the outcrops or caps of veins of ores of greater value.

Perhaps the greatest slate deposits in the United States are present in this country. It has been definitely determined that there is more red slate in Western Arkansas than there is black slate in Pennsylvania and Vermont. These deposits of red, green and black slate begin eight miles east of Mena, and extend east thirty-five miles. The Southwestern Slate Company is just completing an immense slate manufacturing plant at a cost of \$200,000, and is beginning to ship the manufactured product at a profit. The Atlas Slate Company has opened up its slate property, and has a manufacturing plant located in Mena, which cost \$25,000, and the Gulf Slate Company is opening fine deposits. Asphalt, coal, indications of oil and novaculites suitable for abrasives, hones for sharpening fine tools, have been found in several localities. It is only a question of time when all of these resources will have been developed, their value definitely ascertained and some of them placed on a paying basis.

The industrial population of the towns along the railway is large as compared with towns in other localities, and the home consumption of agricultural products is proportionately large. The shipments of surplus produce are therefore no basis upon which could be figured the total production. The shipments in an ordinary year, from the several railroad stations, will run from 5,400 to 15,000 bales of cotton, from 10 to 30 car loads of apples, 500 to 5,000 crates of peaches, 400 to 800 crates of cantaloupes, 500 to 5,000 crates of strawberries, 14,000 to

25,000 pounds of poultry, 6,000 to 10,000 cases of eggs, 89 to 150 car loads of cattle, 6,000 to 15,000 pounds of wool, 16 to 30 car loads of hogs, etc.

Polk County offers to the manufacturer, the merchant, artisan, and particularly to the farmer, stock raiser, fruit and truck grower, splendid opportunities. The land of exceptional fertility, the water the softest and purest found anywhere, the timber abundant and in great variety, unknown wealth in minerals, are all there, and so is some of the cheapest land in the Middle West. The entire county is traversed by good dirt roads, easily kept in repair and there is a good school house in every district, the terms of school varying from five to eight months. There are no malarial diseases in the county, no mosquitoes, and not a saloon or a blind tiger in a single town on the line. Churches of various denominations are found in all parts of the county, and the resident population is sociable and hospitable. The prices of land range from \$5

to \$25 per acre, according to location and improvements, and considering its productive capacity, as well as other advantages, it is the cheapest land in the United States. On July 1, 1909, there were 145,887 acres of land in Polk County subject to homestead entry and 6,757 acres in the adjacent Sevier County, about which the U. S. Land Office at Camden, Ark., can furnish more information.

People contemplating a change in location, looking for a new home, or in search of new opportunities for business, will do well to correspond with the following named parties for more detailed local information: Cove, Arkansas, T. P. Fulton, secretary Cove Boosters Club; Wickes, Ark., Wm. Darwin, secretary Wickes Boosters Club, or O. P. Ridgeway, Wickes, Ark.; Granniss, Ark., Jno. P. Logan, president Granniss Boosters Club; Hatton, Ark., J. G. Johns or N. L. Harvey; Hatfield, Ark., Geo. J. Arnold; Vandervoort, Ark., Janssen Realty Co., or G. B. WOOD, General Agent, K. C. S. Ry., Mena, Polk Co., Ark.

The Long-Bell Experimental Farm

AT BON AMI, LOUISIANA

This experimental farm is now in its third year, and is located on cut over pine land which had been denuded of its timber one or two years before the opening of the farm. The following statement is the report of its superintendent for the year 1909, up to September 1st:

The following are the figures as given by Supt. T. S. Granberry, returns on the Irish potato crop being given first:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Number of acres..... | 50 |
| Average yield, per acre, bushels..... | 63 |
| Gross receipts from same..... | \$3,058.05 |
| Cost of production, including seed.... | 1,712.36 |

Net proceeds.....\$1,345.69

Besides this, enough potatoes were reserved for seed next year as well as quite a quantity used by the men. It must be borne in mind that only the best potatoes were reserved for seed.

Thus we see that the potatoes made a handsome profit.

The New Era cowpea was planted exclusively.

| | |
|---|-------|
| Gross receipts from 16,000 lbs..... | \$128 |
| On hand and valued at \$16 per ton, 20,000 lbs..... | 160 |
| Reserved for farm use..... | 112 |
| Additional sales..... | 79 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Total..... | \$479 |
| Total cost, including seed..... | 734 |

Deficit.....\$255

Owing to the heat, the pea made no more than one-half a crop. In the above statement no account is taken of the shelled peas yet to be gathered, which are worth \$4 a bushel.

Again, after the potatoes were dug a tremendous growth of crab grass came up, waist high in many places. Some of this has been cut, but because of the stumps and young fruit trees it was impossible to get in with a machine. Some of this will be saved, as there will be about twenty-five head of cattle turned in to fatten on this and the cowpeas not gathered. Again, the turning under of what is left will loosen the soil and the benefit will be realized the coming year.

Thus it will be seen that the hay crop more than paid.

About 20 acres of peanuts were planted. A few tons were baled, which everyone knows makes the best of feed, but the largest part were left in the field to be gathered by 105 hogs bought by the company in Arkansas. Average weight, 90 pounds. These cost laid down, 6 cents. What result may come from this venture will be given later.

On strawberries, the following was the result: Gross receipts from 6 acres.....\$920.05 Cost, including marketing.....534.46

Net gain.....\$385.59

This certainly shows a fine per cent of gain.

After the early potatoes were dug, cantaloupe were planted. Owing to the intensely hot season and moisture coming at the wrong time, the crop was a failure.

The grape vines were planted in sod land, consequently there was no growth of wood and no root development. The vines look well and will make a showing next year.

The Satsuma variety of oranges on trifoliata stock is in evidence. The trees are only three years old and are weighted to the ground with fruit. The orange acreage will be largely

increased next year. The superintendent will try the experiment of budding on the trifoliata.

The figs have made a phenomenal growth, cuttings set out in the spring being heavily fruited. The already large acreage will be increased the coming year, the trees being set 10 feet apart. The Magnolia variety is in favor here. All the fruit is being preserved. This crop will pay handsomely this year, and the possibilities of the fig as a money-producer are enormous.

The castor bean crop proved a failure, and all the benefit that will be derived will be adding nitrogen to and loosening the soil when turned under. No more will be raised on the farm.

There was a large acreage of peaches. These were cut back so that they would not bear this year. Owing to the drouth, the growth has not been large. They may take on some growth later on this year. The trees are looking splendidly, and if nature is propitious next year the crop will pay one-half the cost of the farm.

The plum trees have made a fine growth. Next year they should bear. The Gonzales, which might be called a southern plum, will, in the writer's opinion, take the lead.

Located just back of the superintendent's house on the experimental farm is the fig preserving plant, with a boiler house annex 12

feet by 20 feet. The boiler is 18x72, and will develop 50 horsepower.

There are two copper preserving kettles, with steam jackets. The steam passes around the kettle, thus giving the most perfect heat and minimizing the danger from scorching. The capacity of the kettles is 70 gallons each.

The daily capacity is: 300 10-oz. jars, 270 16-oz. jars and 700 4-oz. jars. The finest of granulated sugar is used, and the proportion is two-thirds of a pound of sugar to one pound of fruit.

It required two and a quarter hours cooking to prepare the figs for the cans. When the figs are brought from the trees they are put into trays, sorted and washed.

The output of this preserving plant discounts that of any other the writer has seen. It is simply perfect. It is put up in neat jars—16-oz., 10-oz. or 4-oz.

The estimated output of this year is: 2,000 16-oz. jars, 6,000 10-oz. jars, 2,000 4-oz. jars. This will net in round numbers \$3,000. Next year this will be increased 300 per cent.

The output will also be sold to some one or two jobbers in the North. It is the wish of the company to create a market for the output.

The cannery is sufficiently large so that other fruits may be taken care of next year.

Supt. T. S. Granberry oversees the whole. Few better men than he in his line.

Colonizing Lands on the old Land Grant Roads

Up to about 1870, no special effort was made by the railways to settle up the country along their lines. The new settlers came mainly from the more thickly settled Eastern States, and moved only two or three hundred miles when they did move. A few railroads had gotten as far west as the Missouri River, and had been built to supply transportation to the settlers already on the ground, most of whom had come by way of the Missouri River.

In order to promote the construction of railways in the unsettled portions of the country west of the Mississippi, Congress had made large grants of lands to several railway companies who were building westward and southward about 1870, and the Land Grant Roads were the first to engage in a systematic effort to populate the vacant country along their lines. Enormous sums of money were expended in advertising, and the older well settled States were literally blanketed with printed matter. The newspapers were kept full of information relating to the new Great West. The New West, however, was nearly all prairie land, and the farmer from the Eastern States, who had grown up in the timber, carried with him a prejudice to the effect that land which was not strong enough to grow timber was not good for producing the ordinary field crops. It required several years time and the expenditure of much money to overcome this prejudice. The European immigrant was not afflicted in this manner. He

knew nothing about the country and relied on divine providence and the railroad company to see him through. Nearly all the Land Grant Roads maintained agencies in Germany, England, Norway, Sweden or Denmark. There were no governmental restrictions in those days, and the work of promoting immigration was most vigorously pushed. The immigrants came in whole shiploads and were moved to Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota, etc., in whole trainloads. New York, Baltimore and New Orleans were the principal ports of entry. The handling of immigrants in bulk ceased with the withdrawal of the foreign agencies, early in the eighties, at which time much of the country had been settled upon, and the American farmer had realized that there was some virtue in prairie land. At the present time it is difficult to induce the sons of these old settlers to move on timber land.

The foreign immigrant got his information from his "Guide to America," published by some American railroad company, the cover design of which was usually barbaric and the wood cuts contained within, simply atrocious. The text was generally truthful and in accordance with the facts, and to the foreigner it was gospel truth. If issued by the B. & M., the Santa Fe, Iron Mountain, Union Pacific, Texas & Pacific, or other land grant road, "America" meant a strip of land about 32 miles wide and several hundred miles long. As a matter of

course, the only good land anywhere on earth was in this strip. This "America" as described was good enough for anybody who had to cross the ocean to get to it, and the lands were equal to the representation, for ninety-five out of the hundred succeeded in the long run. It was a safe prediction in those days, that any foreigner would fail, no matter where placed, as long as he had a foreign coin about his person. As a rule, when pioneering, he was awkward, stubborn and impractical, and it frequently required a severe dose of adversity to knock some sense into his head. After his experience he generally outstripped his American neighbor and cheerfully contributed his share to the upbuilding of the country. Few of his children can speak his mother tongue correctly to-day, and in the third generation they cannot speak it at all. His principal failing was the waste of energy in his farm work. He could and did work harder and accomplish less than any of his American neighbors. It was the unnecessary work performed that usually brought him to grief. After a year or two he would realize that his less industrious neighbor made every stroke count, and that the work that counts, is the work that pays. With the absorption of this fact, ultimate success was almost invariably assured.

As stated above, the foreign immigrant studied his "Guide to America," and when he believed he understood it, sold out his belongings and started for his paradise. To get the American farmer to settle in a new country was a different proposition. It takes longer than a year to move him from one place to another. Printer's ink and an abundance of it are essential to get his attention in the first place. After a while he writes for information, not necessarily to one railroad but to half a dozen. He secures a liberal supply of printed information, discusses this with his friends, and finally gets in communication with people living along the line. After the corn is "laid by" and there comes a lull in farm work, he takes a trip on one of the land excursions.

He may fancy the country he has visited or he may not. At all events he has spent as much on excursions this year as he is going to, unless the country suits him. If pleased, and he concludes to move, he must either sell or rent his farm. There is only one time in the year when he can do this, and that is between January and March. If he succeeds he may emigrate that fall or next spring, but if he has not found a section of country meeting his requirements he may have to wait another year. In the meantime the situation has been thoroughly canvassed with the neighbors, and when the time for the "move" finally comes, frequently a dozen families will start instead of one.

The North Europeans, notably the Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Russian Mennonites, some of the Austrian people like Germans and Bohemians, had well defined ideas as to why they came to America. They wanted to secure homes of their own and become citizens of the country. European lands are so high in price as to be utterly beyond the reach of the ordinary citizens. The South

Europeans, with the exception of the people of Lombardy and Piedmont in Italy, seem to lack the ambition of owning a home and very few of the Italians, Greeks, Hungarians, etc., seem to have made an effort to buy land. The higher wages paid for unskilled labor seem to be the principal attraction. When they have accumulated what to them seems a competence, they generally return to Europe.

The motives prompting the American farmer to move are more difficult to trace. With advancing age many move in order to enjoy a milder climate, some to secure a larger acreage which the farm in the older well settled states will readily pay for, some to provide farms for their children at smaller cost than near the old home, and others "just to keep a moving." Some old fellow who has tried to become justice of the peace for ten years and failed, becomes disgusted and quits the neighborhood, and a neighborhood spat among the women-folks is frequently brought to an end by the moving of some of the participants. The American farmer is not a rolling stone which gathers no moss, but those who keep tab on his movements say that he can be counted on to make a move about once every eight or nine years.

The ways of getting in touch with the intending settler are various and numerous, but advertising liberally in the newspapers, particularly the farm journals, and the distribution of well printed and accurate information, will produce the quickest and most satisfactory results. Much of this is done by the railways, though very few of them now have lands for sale.

In the larger cities a more or less efficient Board of Trade, Commercial Club, etc., attends to the advertising of the city, but in many of them the secretary has almost as much trouble as the pastor of a small congregation, in collecting the advertising funds and incidentally his salary.

In the smaller towns the local real estate agents generally bear the burden of advertising the town and adjacent country. The mercantile contingent, the real beneficiaries of their work, look on complaisantly, while the real estate agents expend the greater part of their commissions in printer's ink. The commissions received by the real estate men are not a circumstance compared with the benefits the business community secures. Every new settler in or near the town is worth to the business community from \$500 to \$1,000 per annum, which he must expend in one way or another among the merchants for necessities.

It is a safe maxim, that every town is as large as the development of the adjacent country allows it to be. To increase the town population, without developing the surrounding country, simply means a division of the business of the town among more merchants, though nothing is being done to increase the number of purchasers in the country. The work of a town boosters club, which forgets to advertise the country surrounding it, is simply wasted energy which could be applied to better advantage.

The City of Beaumont, Texas, and Surroundings

[T. W. LARKIN

It is safe to say that great strides have been made throughout the great coast country during the past year. Considerable new land has been put under cultivation around Beaumont. Probably one-third of the tillable area of Jefferson County is now under cultivation. It is estimated that about 100,000 acres of the present tillable area of Jefferson County is accessible to irrigation, about 60,000 acres was under cultivation in rice last year, producing from 10 to 20 bags per acre, according to the quality of the land, care and cultivation. It is estimated that there are something like 20,000 in truck and general farm produce and probably 5,000 in orchard. It is estimated that about 40,000 orange trees and 50,000 figs were put out the past planting season, which indicates the rapid development of the fruit and truck growing industry. Pioneers in the business have found this section ideally adapted to the growing of some of the most profitable truck crops. Jefferson County farmers are now shipping produce in carload lots to the Northern markets.

In regard to population we have only the recent scholastic census upon which to base an estimate. This census indicates a total population of 35,000 in the county and a gain of probably 2,000 during the past year. Jefferson County has just completed a splendid system of shelled roads, which reach out from Beaumont in almost every direction, and this is having the effect of promoting agricultural development. Lands contiguous to these roads are being sought and many acres of sod land have been put in cultivation this year. The roads are constructed of shell, enormous deposits of which are found along the Neches River some miles below Beaumont. The shell is taken by dredge-like apparatus, loaded on barges and brought to Beaumont where it is unloaded by most modern machinery and sent out on the roads. The shell and sand business is quite an industry on the Neches River. A very fine grade of sand is obtained along the upper river and large quantities of it is used in Beaumont, and shipped to other points. The shell and sand is used extensively in all concrete construction work. The Neches River and numerous tributaries are well wooded, the thickly timbered area often running back several miles from the stream. In addition to the pine, for which this section is famed, there is an abundance of ash, hickory, oak, gum and cypress. The hardwoods are near the streams and a great deal of this timber is floated down the Neches River to Beaumont where the milling is principally done. A recent rise on the river brought down something over five million feet of pine. Some of this came down three to four hundred miles distance as counted by the meanderings of the stream. The best pine is

found farther away from the stream, but a great deal of it is floated down the Neches.

On July 8th, the people of Jefferson County authorized a bond issue of \$498,000.00 for the purpose of deepening the Sabine-Neches canal and further improving the Neches River so as to enable ocean-going vessels to ply direct to Beaumont. With the deepening of the canal and the improvement of the Neches River, which is already one of the best of navigable streams, Beaumont is destined to become an important inland port. A fresh-water port is always attractive to shipowners and we have every reason to believe that Beaumont will do a big shipping business by water as soon as the canal is deepened to such an extent as to enable ocean-going vessels to ply direct to this port. The government canal which connects the mouths of the Sabine and Neches Rivers with the Gulf, 30 miles south of Beaumont, was completed to a depth of 10 feet last year, has scoured to a depth of eleven feet and more in places. We now purpose to deepen the canal to 25 feet. With slight improvement the Neches River is already deep enough. As above indicated this river runs through vast forests of fine timber and much of it can be floated or handled by barge to Beaumont, which is an ideal assembling point. In a short time our factories will be able to ship their products to the ports of the world, and the location is especially advantageous for trade with the West Indies, Mexico and South America. Such shipping is now done through Galveston, eighty miles southwest of Beaumont, and through Port Arthur, twenty miles south. There are regular lines of steamers to Mexican ports, Havana and Porto Rico. We have perfected arrangements for the establishment of a ship service between Beaumont and Mexican and Central American ports. This service will be established at once. We are also negotiating for the establishment of coastwise service between Beaumont and Galveston, and Beaumont and New Orleans, and indications are favorable.

Our people are enthusiastic in anticipation of the purposed improvement, which promises so much to this section of the country. It is confidently believed that Beaumont can be made an important inland port, not only because of the advantageous geographical location, but because of the fact that it will be the only fresh water port on the Texas coast. This movement has attracted attention throughout the country as is evidenced by the numerous letters of inquiry coming from all sections and indicating that progressive people everywhere realize the benefits to be derived and the great era of development that will follow such an enterprising effort. We have just closed a deal for a very desirable woodworking establishment that will give employment to about sixty

people in the factory proper. We raised \$25,000.00 for this enterprise in two days. We are now negotiating for the establishment of a large wagon factory, which will give employment to several hundred hands.

The city has thirty-two churches representing almost every established denomination. The public schools are the pride of our people and in addition thereto we have a business college, parochial school and schools of music and art. The population has multiplied four times in nine years and there is every reason to believe that it will easily double again in a few years.

Beaumont is one of the brightest and busiest cities in all the coast country. It is one of the wealthiest cities in this section of the country and is famed for its fine homes, paved streets, etc.

We have a paid fire department with five stations, three steam engines, eight hose wagons, four hook and ladder trucks, an aerial truck and two chemicals, the best fire protection of any city of similar size in the country. Beaumont, Texas.

December 20, 1909.

Sevier County, Arkansas

Sevier County lies almost in the southwest corner of the state and in the most western tier of counties. It borders on Oklahoma for 17 miles and extends southward to within 20 miles of Red River and the Texas line.

This county is in the southern foothills of the Ozark Mountains and its general slope is south and southeast. It is well watered and well drained. It is bounded on the east by the Saline River and on the south by the Little River. The Cossatot and Rolling Fork rivers cross the county from north to south, emptying into Little River. Numerous tributaries, fed principally by perennial springs, flow into all four of these rivers. Sevier County embraces about 600 square miles, or 384,000 acres. Eighty per cent of its area will be tillable when the timber has been cleared away.

About half the soil in the county is red. The color is due to the presence of considerable quantities of iron, which guarantees a rich color and flavor to peaches and other fruits. Some of the red land is gravelly and some is sandy. Both kinds have a subsoil of red clay. There are two kinds of black land in the county. One is a black sandy loam, found principally in the river and creek bottoms and very productive. The other is known as black lime land, found mostly in the lower Cossatot valley in the southeastern part of the county. It is especially adapted to the cultivation of alfalfa.

The climate of Sevier County is one of the best found anywhere in the United States. It is remarkably healthful and is free from extremes and sudden changes. Lying in the southern foothills of the Ozarks, Sevier County is protected by those mountains from the icy blizzards of the north. From the southern boundary of the county an almost unbroken plain slopes gently to the Gulf of Mexico, allowing the gulf breeze to sweep inland and temper the enervating heat of summer. Even in the hottest weather the heat in the daytime is but little greater than in the North Central states. The nights are always cool enough for one to get plenty of refreshing sleep.

Protected by wooded hills for many miles in every direction except southward, Sevier

County has little to fear from either drouths or storms. The homeseeker from any section where climatic extremes prevail will find a pleasing change on coming to Sevier County.

Agriculture has succeeded lumbering as the leading industry in Sevier County and is destined to become still more so when more of the land is cleared. Cotton is grown extensively and yields from half a bale to a bale per acre. Heretofore it has been the leading cash crop grown in Sevier County. The cotton output is from 10,000 to 12,000 bales each year, which at usual prices brings into the county from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

Next in importance is the corn crop. The uplands yield about 25 bushels per acre and the bottom lands about 40 bushels. Oats and millet do well and are grown extensively. Wheat, rye and kafir corn are grown in small quantities. Sugar cane yields as high as 700 gallons per acre. Sorghum is grown extensively both for molasses and for hay. Cowpeas are grown for hay and to store nitrogen in the soil. Peanuts yield abundantly and are used for hay as well as other purposes.

Timothy, clover and red top have been grown in small quantities and do well in most parts of the county. Alfalfa produces four crops each season on the black lime lands of the southeastern part of the county. Bermuda grass thrives here and is excellent for lawns, pasture and hay. It also prevents erosion and soil waste. Among other crops grown in smaller quantities are broom corn and tobacco.

Two crops of Irish potatoes can be grown each season on the same soil, the first crop being ready for the market by the latter part of May. The red Triumph is the favorite and shipments are made in car lots. Tomatoes are grown for shipment in car lots and for canning at the local cannery. Sevier County tomatoes are noted for their size, color, flavor and shipping qualities. Seventy-five acres are being grown this season in the vicinity of De Queen for the local cannery. Rocky Ford cantaloupes are shipped extensively. Melons do equally well, but have not been shipped on a large

scale. Lettuce, onions, spinach, radishes, cabbage, turnips, beets, carrots, okra and other kinds of garden truck are easily grown and yield abundantly.

The soil of Sevier County is especially adapted to peach culture. All varieties do well here. The Early Wheeler, the Sneed and the Elberta are the varieties most grown.

The largest commercial peach orchard in the world is in Sevier County, between De Queen and Horatio. It is owned by the Southern Orchard Planting Company and contains about 3,000 acres of bearing trees.

Early varieties of apples do equally well. Plums are shipped extensively. Apricots, cherries, figs, grapes and pears are grown. The strawberries that are grown on the uplands are of fine color and flavor. Blackberries, dewberries and raspberries are beginning to receive attention and give very satisfactory results.

Pecans are indigenous in the river and creek bottoms and never fail to produce. The soft shelled variety bear well when grafted on the native stock. The chestnut does well on the uplands and can be grown from seed or grafted into the native chinquapin. The Japanese persimmon yields abundantly and produces fine fruit.

Because this county is of comparatively recent development, stock raising has not received very much attention. Horses, mules, cows and hogs are being raised in increasing numbers and the grade is being improved all the time. Sheep and goats thrive on the uplands. Poultry of all kinds do well and increasing attention is being given to standard breeds of poultry. Eggs are shipped and there are good openings in this county for persons wishing to produce poultry and eggs for the markets. Chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks and guineas thrive. Good honey is made from the native flowers, but not much attention has been given as yet to bee-keeping on a commercial scale.

Most of the large game has been killed or driven away but small game is yet abundant and the streams are full of fish.

The great mineral wealth of Sevier County is as yet undeveloped. Enough prospecting has been done, however, by expert mineralogists to demonstrate the fact that this county is well supplied with minerals of various kinds.

Vast deposits of antimony have been found at several places in the northern part of the county, covering more than 27 square miles. Just south of the antimony deposits is a belt of lead and zinc, covering 50 square miles and stretching east and west clear across the county. In one 200-foot shaft several distinct levels of lead and rosin zinc have been found.

A well defined vein of quartz has been found in large quantities in a shaft about four miles north of De Queen. On being assayed this quartz was found to contain 120 ounces of silver and 210 pounds of copper to each ton, with a trace of gold. At present prices of ore this percentage of silver and copper is worth \$100 a ton.

A considerable deposit of manganese of high grade has been found about five miles south of De Queen. Iron exists in considerable quantities

in the red lands of the county, giving an especially rich color and flavor to peaches and other fruit. Iron, sulphur and calcium are found in solution in the sheet of excellent artesian water that is found in abundance at a depth of from 200 to 400 feet in various parts of the county. Besides this artesian water there are numerous flowing streams fed by perennial springs, and plenty of water for domestic purposes can be had all over the county at depths ranging from 20 to 40 feet.

Chalk of the kind used in making Portland cement has been found on the southeastern border of the county. A half-mile belt of limestone extends east and west clear across the county.

Official reports include Sevier County in the geological area embraced in the Caddo oil and gas field. It is on a line between the oil and gas fields of Oklahoma and those of Louisiana. A test well is now being drilled in the southeastern part of the county at an expense of several thousand dollars. Leases have been taken on 1,200 acres near Lockesburg and on 4,000 acres a few miles west of De Queen. More test wells are to be put down soon. The famous Trenton rock crops out by upheaval at several points near De Queen. Lignite and blossom of coal have been found at several places in the county and expert mineralogists say all surface indications give promise of coal, oil and gas in immense quantities.

A deposit of asphaltum has been found about twelve miles east of De Queen. Umber of very durable grade and of three distinct colors has been found at points ranging from four to twelve miles east of De Queen. Shale suitable for pressed brick and tile is found six miles north. Sand and gravel suitable for building purposes is widely distributed in the county. Salt is found, though probably not in such quantities as to be commercially profitable. A sparkling white brilliant, approximating the diamond in luster, though not in value, is found at many places in the county, as a result of geological upheaval. Some granite has been found, though it has not been determined whether it is here as a result of glacial action or geological upheaval.

Sevier County was heavily timbered until quite recently and still exports large quantities of lumber and other timber products, including cross-ties and telegraph poles. The timber industry in this county now ranks second, as agriculture has advanced to first place. But for many years to come there will be enough lumber in this county for local use and plenty of timber for fuel and for general farm use. Most of the timber of commercial value is yellow pine, but there are still considerable quantities of red oak, white oak, hickory, cypress, sweet gum, red cedar, sycamore, ash, elm and holly.

Except for the lumber industry, manufacturing in Sevier County is yet in its infancy. Heretofore lumbering has been one of the leading industries of this county, second only to farming in importance. Numerous saw mills and planing mills are at work converting the forests of yellow pine into building material and the oak and hickory into stock for wagons and

farming implements. Oak and gum cross-ties are shipped extensively. Cypress is used for lumber, shingles and telegraph poles. The cedar brakes yield large quantities of telephone poles.

The ice factory at De Queen has a capacity of 25 tons a day and in connection with it has a bottling works with a daily capacity of 500 dozen bottles. The same company that operates the ice factory supplies the people of De Queen with electric lights and with power for operating small electric motors.

The canning factory at De Queen now takes care of considerable quantities of fruit and truck and is to be enlarged to meet the increasing demand. Many of the fruit growers have installed home canneries to take care of such fruit as cannot be shipped advantageously. A box factory operated in connection with one of the local planing mills supplies boxes and crates for the shippers and will be enlarged as occasion may require.

Several cotton gins and grist mills in various parts of the county gin the cotton crop and grind part of the corn crop into meal and chops.

The possibilities in the way of industrial expansion in Sevier County are great. The universal resources have not at all been developed, yet they are present in such variety, that their exploitation in course of time may become one of the most important industries of this county. There are great possibilities in the chalk, clay, shale, asphalt, oil, lead and zinc, antimony, manganese and other indications found in so many places. Water power is abundant in the county and a good many thousand horsepower can be developed when the need for the same comes.

The county already has good railway facilities. The Kansas City Southern Railway crosses the county from north to south with a total mileage of 29.88 miles in this county. A direct freight and express service to Kansas City, Port Arthur and all intermediate points is regularly maintained. The De Queen and Eastern Railway has a mileage of 21.63 miles in the county and extends on eastward into Howard County. The Memphis, Paris and Gulf Railway cuts across the southeastern part of Sevier County with a mileage of five miles.

Fairly good public roads now connect all parts of the county. The more important ones are being graded and gravelled at the rate of five or six miles a year. There are now 25 miles of gravelled roads in the county and more are being built each year. There are in the county about forty bridges, of which nine are of steel and concrete construction, costing \$40,000. The wooden bridges are being replaced with steel construction as rapidly as practicable. All gravelled roads are on easy grades and all culverts are being built of concrete.

There are sixty-eight school districts in the county and a school population of 6,222. In the larger towns good graded schools are maintained, with a nine-months course. All the larger towns have local telephone exchanges and all parts of the county are reached by rural lines. The railway mail service on three lines, fourteen post offices, five star routes and six rural free delivery routes, provide the necessary postal facilities. The financial dealings are transacted through seven banks. The various public buildings, worth about \$40,000, are new and in good condition.

The present population of Sevier County is 22,000, of whom about 4,000 reside in De Queen, the county seat, about 1,500 at Lockesburg, and from 500 to 1,000 each at Gillham, Horatio and other points.

As has been shown in the foregoing paragraphs, Sevier County has vast natural resources only partially developed. Soil, climate, mineral resources, transportation facilities, citizenship and social institutions unite to make this an ideal location in which to make a home and to rear a family.

Heretofore the tide of emigration from the older states has swept by this section, going to Oklahoma or Texas and paying twice as much for land of the same grade and in a climate not at all comparable with this. There is yet considerable public land in this county, in the parts farthest from the railways. This can be had by homesteading. Deeded land can be bought at prices ranging from \$5 to \$50 an acre, according to quality, location and improvements. On these cheap lands there are excellent opportunities for farming, trucking, fruit growing, dairying and poultry raising.

The Chief Resources of Fort Smith, Arkansas

The Fort Smith Commercial League

PAUL B. BIGGER

*The manufacture of iron and clay products in the Fort Smith territory offers to investors opportunities unequalled in the East or North.

The raw materials, production, and employing population are here in abundance.

In coal, gas, oil, fire and potter's clay, stone and all raw materials, Fort Smith exceeds Pittsburg, Pa., and Birmingham, Ala., while scrap iron can be assembled here at \$10 per ton, with a supply of 100 tons per day.

Fort Smith has a 40-foot thick deposit of

high-grade potter's clay which burns pure white, 38% aluminum, 58% silica, stands 3,500 degrees heat, and makes good stoneware or ornamental and face brick.

This territory also has an inexhaustible supply of high grade carboniferous shale, pronounced superior to that of Akron, Ohio, or Southern Kansas.

Fort Smith is the center of the most fertile and resourceful fruit and agricultural belts,

covering millions of acres, a large proportion of which wait development by new settlers. Homestead land in this territory can be had on easy terms.

And Fort Smith is the center of inexhaustible deposits of high grade building stone, slate, marble, onyx, granite, silica, sand, limestone, lead, zinc and iron.

There are twenty billions cubic feet of hard and soft woods within easy shipping distance of Fort Smith, and ample rail facilities for marketing it.

Fort Smith's jobbing trade approximates \$40,000,000 annually and her manufacturing output reaches \$30,000,000.

Fort Smith's rate of taxation is \$2.47 per \$100 on a valuation of 25%.

The finest grade of coke is laid down in Fort Smith at \$5.00 per ton.

Cottonwood and oaks in logs are assembled at Fort Smith at from eleven to twelve dollars per 1,000 feet—log measure; gum, hickory, pine and sycamore at \$9 to \$10 per 1,000 feet—log measure.

Fine grades of steam coal are to be had here in inexhaustible quantities at \$1.00 per ton, and natural gas at less than ten cents per thousand cubic feet.

The coal rate to the Gulf is 5 cents, and the rate on manufactured products to the Gulf will be approximately 3 cents.

In the near future stoves, architectural iron, bridge work, engines, boilers, and all classes of machinery, and all else in iron will be made at Fort Smith. At the present time there is practically no iron products made Southwest.

FIFTY-TWO PRODUCING GAS WELLS. With the natural gas territory but barely tapped, Fort Smith has already fifty-two producing gas wells. Tests prove that the Fort Smith gas field is superior to other gas belts, and 1,000 cubic feet of gas from a Fort Smith well will produce as much as 1,500 cubic feet from any other territory.

There has been a careful husbanding of the natural gas resources in this field, while in the old fields billions of feet were wasted, resulting in the exhaustion of the supply in many territories.

FORT SMITH'S LEADING FACTORIES. This city has already become one of the chief manufacturing centers of the Southwest. The industries are cotton oil mills, vinegar and pickle factory, cotton compresses, broom factories, cracker and biscuit factory, nine furniture plants, thirty-three wood-working plants, powder, bed and couch factory, refrigerator works, dining table plants, excelsior plants, four brick plants (one the largest plant west of the Mississippi River), two foundries, two wagon factories, men's pant factory, overall factory, twist tobacco factory, cigar factories, harness and saddlery factory, two ice and cold storage plants, shovel handle plant, box factories, cement block plants, planing mills, manufacturing all lines of house equipment; a sanitary milk plant; book binderies; a trunk and leather specialties plant; three soft drink bottling plants, a tent and awning factory, and office equipment plant.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANTAGES.—Fort Smith has the finest public school system in the

United States, with a fund ample for all requirements and the erection and maintenance of additional schools as the population demands them. In addition there are two prosperous commercial business colleges and an academy for young women.

FORT SMITH'S SANITARY CONDITION.

The official record shows that the death rate of Fort Smith is $7\frac{1}{2}$ per 1,000 people. The sanitary conditions are almost perfect, due chiefly to the elaborate sewer system adopted. Again, the 71 miles of brick street paving has required the establishing of grades in every part of the city, and this improvement has removed the natural pools of water which are disease-breeder in cities without a sewer and paving system.

ARKANSAS AS A COTTON-GROWING STATE.—According to the bulletin of cotton production issued by the Department of Commerce and Labor, Arkansas produced 1,020,000 bales of cotton in 1908, as compared with 770,214 in 1907.

The rental cotton acreage of Arkansas in 1908 was 2,296,000, against 1,950,000 in 1907. The total number of pounds of cotton produced was 529,944,535 in 1908, as compared with 396,707,657 in 1907. The average weight per bale in 1908 was 518.3 pounds.

There were 2,128 active gins in operation and 212 idle gins in 1908. In 1907 there were 2,128 active gins and 266 idle ones.

Next to Texas, Arkansas showed the greatest percentage of increase in the amount of cotton produced, the percentage of increase over 1907 being 33.4, or a total of a little more than one-third more cotton in 1908 than in 1907.

CLIMATE OF FORT SMITH IS IDEAL.—The weather bureau records show the average mean temperature of the winter months to be: December, 41.7; January, 38.3; February, 41.8. It will be noticed that the mean for February is almost identically the same as December. The extremes in temperature during the twenty-six years since the weather bureau was established at this place are: December, maximum 79 degrees in 1889, minimum 2 degrees below in 1872; January, maximum 80 degrees in 1890, minimum 7 below in 1894; February maximum 92 in 1897, minimum 15 below in 1899, the latter being the lowest temperature ever recorded here. It is worthy of note that no two months have their minimum the same year. This is due to the fact that the extreme cold weather here usually comes in a wave and is seldom of a week's duration. The instances of zero temperature are rare. A better idea of what the above figures mean may be gained by the addition of the data on rainfall. January has an average of nine days on which .01 inch (not much more than a heavy dew) or more of rainfalls, and December and February have eight each. December has an average of twelve clear, sunshiny days, and seven partly so; January, ten clear and eight partly clear; December, twelve clear and eight partly clear.

Fort Smith is recognized as a desirable winter resort.

ARKANSAS COAL FIELDS.—The coal production of Arkansas annually is about three

million tons, with a valuation of between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000. This State produces some of the finest grades of steam coal, and Fort Smith is the central point for the coal business.

The smokeless coal mined here is acknowledged to be one of the very highest grades of coal produced anywhere in this country.

The coal area contiguous to Fort Smith covers four thousand square miles of semi-anthracite and smokeless coal, employing to-day nearly ten thousand miners and earning approximately \$40,000 daily.

PRODUCES DOUBLE CROPS.—Arkansas is known as "the land of double crops." The Northern and Northwestern part of Arkansas are simply continuances of the splendid Ozark orchards of Missouri. Apples and peaches, accompanied by many of the small fruits, do for Arkansas just what the same combination does for the sister state to the north.

The genuine surprise which Arkansas has given to the world is its growing of rice on the prairie lands in the eastern part of the state. Some experiment station tests showed that the uplands would give good results, and these soon were followed by many farmers who put in irrigation plants and took up the new crop. Formerly it had been supposed that only the swampy lands down close to the Gulf of Mexico and in the river bottoms of the far South would make profitable crops of rice.

The splendid prairie counties of Arkansas have proven their worth in every line of agriculture. Rice is but one of the things that make for profit. True, it has given better returns

than other crops and has resulted in material increase in the valuation of land, but all the grains are grown in quantities that give good returns for the price of the land on which they are raised.

It is in Northeastern Arkansas that some of the richest of land is found. There is a wide area there that is being reclaimed by putting in drainage ditches, and the soil is so deep that its bottom never has been reached. This section has been practically under water for all time. The Father of Waters and the streams that empty into it near the junction of the two states have brought down to it all the humus and vegetable matter that they picked up on their way, and these have been strewn there where the water became little short of stagnant. This has meant the gradual forming of an alluvial soil that cannot be exceeded for richness. Now that it is being reclaimed the most wonderful of crops are being raised. Alfalfa, corn, wheat and other things give as big yields as ever were heard of.

Arkansas has within her borders some of the biggest hard and soft wood forests left in the country. Numerous huge sawmill plants are turning out the material at a rapid rate, but they seem scarcely to make an impression on the forests.

The cut-over lands are available for some lines of agriculture. Their worth differs to a degree, but all is valuable. Little of it is being sold, however, for the lumber interests have but recently consented to put their holdings on the market.

Some Opportunities in De Soto Parish, La.

W. H. HARRISON, MANSFIELD, LA.

De Soto Parish lies on the west side of the state adjoining Texas, with one other parish between this and Arkansas. It is what is known as the hill country. While it is not flat and level, it is not rolling enough to be bluffy, and wash the land, except in a small part of the parish. The country in the main lies in undulating plains, just rolling enough to give good drainage. It is the highest point in Louisiana, being about 400 feet above sea level.

Mansfield, the county seat, is a growing town of 3,000 inhabitants. It is 35 miles south of Shreveport, a city of 40,000 and a market that consumes more than is grown in the surrounding territory. Produce of all kinds will bring more in the home market or in Shreveport than the same things sell for up North. Butter, cream, milk, eggs, poultry of all kinds, vegetables, fruits, grains, hay and all farm products sell for more here than they do North. The boll weevil has interfered with the cotton crop and conditions are changing, and more food crops are being grown at home. The farmers who have settled here from the North

are reaping a harvest, in supplying the demand for food for man and beast.

There are seventeen towns in De Soto Parish and in all of them will be found good schools and churches. It is the custom to have township high schools and each of the larger towns has such. Wagons are hired by the school board and the children are gathered up daily from the surrounding country and brought to town where they have the advantages of the high school. This is at no expense to the farmer except his usual taxes. (Taxes by the way average lower here than in the North, and Louisiana does not tax mortgages.) At Keachie, in the northwestern part of the parish, there is a Baptist college for young ladies, and at Mansfield there is a large college for young ladies under the supervision of the Methodists.

The parish is crossed by three trunk lines. One a Harriman line, a Gould line, and the Kansas City Southern Railway. There are also some branch lines. In no part of the parish can one get very far from a shipping point

Many farms are only a few miles from competitive shipping points.

The climate is mild both summer and winter. The summer days are shorter and not so hot and the winter days are longer and not so cold as in the North. With the exception of a winter once in a dozen or fifteen years, when the North has one of its extremely cold spells, and the edge of the cold wave sweeps over the South for a day or two, the average coldest day during a winter is about 22 degrees above zero. Even that will be for only one morning during the winter. All cold spells are for two to three days only, when there is a turn to warmer weather. The summers are longer than in the North, as they begin sooner and last longer. It will get hotter in Iowa than here. We do not have the suffocating sort of heat they do North, on the other hand it is a long pull, and without the cold spells mixed in as they have them. The thing that makes the summer in the South endurable and on the whole enjoyable, is the fact of cool nights.

Then during the greater part of the day there is a cool breeze blowing in from the Gulf, and at no time is it uncomfortably hot in the shade. A man will work hard all day in the hottest weather here, when at the same heat North he would not venture into the hay field. Sunstrokes are unknown.

This is as healthful a section as there is in America. The death rate among the whites will not exceed 8 per 1,000 inhabitants.

This is a country of good crops, good lands, good climate, good health, good roads, good people and good opportunities.

The Northern farmer will be attracted by this section because of the grass, the forage crops, the advantages for all sorts of stock raising, and because he can farm on a large scale with corn, hogs and cattle as the basis of his work.

On the eastern edge of the parish the soil is a stiff rich red clay, that is as productive as any soil anywhere, and produces large crops of alfalfa, corn and cotton. The most of the parish is the rolling hill section, where the soil is underlaid by a red clay at from eight inches to eighteen inches below the surface. The soil is warm, and will produce earlier crops and will withstand dry weather better than the heavier soils. The top soil of the hill country is a dark gray sandy loam, naturally fertile. The soil needs humus as the lax methods of farming here do not provide any humus. The cotton stalk is usually burned and you seldom see a Southern planter turning under a leguminous crop. Occasionally there is an exception to this, and you will see a man rotating his crops and follow cotton with corn and cow peas, thereby keeping up his soil and producing large crops of both cotton and corn. New lands recently cleared will produce as high as 50 bushels of corn without fertilizers. The soil is sandy but not sand, and is easily worked, will retain moisture better than clay lands, and will bring an early spring crop of potatoes or any of the vegetables which can be marketed in time for corn, cotton, cow peas, peanuts or hay, or another crop of potatoes. Two and three crops can be grown from the same acre each year. There are no overflow lands here.

No state in the country has so many different feeds for stock in her fields and at her mills as Louisiana. The by-products from the rice mills, the cotton oil mills and the sugar factories are all valuable stock feeds and near at hand for the farmer. In his own pastures he has Bermuda grass, the most valuable pasture grass in the world, and capable of making from 2 to 3 tons of hay per acre, that contains twice the nutrition, and is twice as palatable as prairie hay, and more valuable than timothy. Mixed in the same pasture will be found carpet grass, nearly as valuable as Bermuda, and lespedeza (Japanese clover), superior to red clover. These grasses are found all over De Soto parish in all of the pastures and old fields.

By planting, the De Soto farmer can have the cow pea, the most valuable plant of them all as a soil renovator, and for feed. The soja bean, the velvet bean, crimson clover, cat tail millet and the peanut, while crab grass and Alabama clover will come perennially in June on each field that has been cultivated by a spring crop, if the field is simply harrowed over. They are the equal of timothy and will make 2 to 3 tons of hay per acre. Then for winter pasture the DeSoto farmer has hairy vetch, burr clover, with oats and rye for pasture, followed by a spring crop of hay or grain. On each branch bottom grows the switch cane that will keep stock all winter without other feed.

Truck farming is not extensively carried on here, but all sorts of early vegetables do well and there is a fine profit from shipments to supply the early Northern markets. Irish potatoes are shipped from here by the train load May 1st, and bring at the cars \$1 per bushel. Peanuts or other crops can be grown and harvested in time to plant a fall crop of Irish potatoes on the same land, with as great a profit as the spring crop.

Plums grow wild all over the parish and are large and good. Pears live to old age and some varieties seem to be proof against the blight. Blackberries and dewberries grow wild everywhere. Summer apples do well, so do peaches, grapes and figs. Strawberries are a sure crop, and bear for several months, and pay good profits locally or when shipped to the Northern markets.

Winter gardens can be grown and the table supplied all winter with lettuce, radishes, turnips, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, shallots, parsnips and carrots, while the early spring and summer crop of okra, string beans, English peas, egg plant, lima beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, cantaloupes, watermelons and squash can be profitably grown for home or Northern markets.

With only a small number of the above items, and with a few cows added, it is easy for the man with a small home to live well and have a surplus.

The fine grass pastures, finest in the whole South, with the switch cane along the creek and branch bottoms, and the ease with which winter pastures of oats, rye and burr clover can be had, and with the mild, short winters, all combine to make this one of the best and most natural stock countries anywhere. Cattle are seldom fed anything from birth until they are sold to the butcher. There are several

thousand head of cattle shipped from this parish every year. Springs and spring branches afford water all the year. Sheep do well, and all who have tried them have made money. This is a business that should be very much enlarged as they have few troubles of any sort, and the pastures keep them the year through with no expense for feed if the farmer wants to raise them that way. Shelter from cold rains and some feed during the winter will make them more profitable. There is 100 per cent profit in sheep as it is now. Mules and horses can be grown nearly as cheaply as sheep. Stock grown here is as fine as can be grown anywhere, and the day will come when the parish will not only raise all the farm stock needed at home but will ship out large numbers to other sections.

Pigs can be grown here for two cents per pound at a profit. They have less disease here than they have up North.

Poultry can be grown as easily as in any country, and there is a fine opening for a number of poultrymen, as eggs here during all last summer could not be had for less than 25 cents to 35 cents per dozen.

This is a natural dairy section, and in some parts of the parish the industry has been developed to a considerable extent to the great profit of all engaged in it. Dairy products bring better prices than in the North, and there is a demand for many times as much as is now produced.

Since the advent of the boll weevil the farmers of this section have given much attention to the production of peanuts. It has been demonstrated that all of the sandy loam soils of the uplands are especially adapted to the growth of peanuts. A profitable crop can be grown on land that is too poor for any other crop except cowpeas. From 20 to 60 bushels

of nuts can be grown per acre, according to the condition of the soil. The peanut belongs to the leguminous family of plants and hence will improve the soil, by drawing nitrogen from the air and depositing it in nodules on the roots. From one to two tons of hay can be made from the tops per acre, with a feeding value only ten per cent less than alfalfa, thirty per cent less than wheat bran. The nuts bring in this market 85 cents to \$1 per bushel. An acre will produce 1,250 pounds of pork, when pastured. The crop will cost no more to grow and harvest than a crop of corn. All the farm stock will eat and relish the nuts and the hay. Peanuts and pigs will eventually make this one of the richest farming sections in the country. The entire plant with the nuts will keep up a team under hard work, and provides a nearly balanced ration for the milk cow. Easily grown, improves the soil, furnishes valuable feed, brings good revenue, and can be planted after some other crop has been marketed in May or June. The Spanish peanut is the one that is most dependable. The vine grows upright and can be easily mowed for hay, and they will stand more hard usage than the large varieties.

De Soto Parish is underlaid by the greatest vein of lignite in the United States.

Good prospects for oil and gas all over the parish.

Funds have been provided for building 150 miles of model roads in De Soto parish, under Government supervision. Ten miles have been completed.

A friendly welcome is given to all good folks.

Pure free stone water at 25 to 30 feet.

This garden spot of possibilities has been entirely overlooked in the rush for cheap lands. In most cases farms can be bought for the value of the improvements.

Some Good Little Towns in Polk County, Arkansas

Nearly all the railroad towns in Polk County were surveyed and platted during the summer of 1896, some time before the railway reached them, and actual town building did not begin until the spring of 1898. Since then a lusty lot of youngsters have grown up and keep apace with the settlement of the adjacent country. The dozen or more small towns away from the railway have practically held their own, and some of them have grown also, but the greater part of the population of the towns on the railway is entirely new.

COVE, ARK.—Is a growing town, 17 miles south of Mena, the county seat, and only three miles from the Oklahoma line. It has a population of 450, one of the best public schools of any small town in the State, one bank, three churches, four general stores, drug store, two hotels, cotton gin, grist mill, shingle factory, a planing mill doing an average business of \$10,000 per month, and smaller enterprises,

meat markets, livery barns, blacksmith and repair shops, a newspaper plant, a town hall, and a commodious lodge building used by several benevolent organizations. The gross annual business of the town amounts to about \$500,000 annually. It is headquarters for an extensive trade in the products of hardwood timber, and it is estimated that the sum of \$150,000 is paid out annually at this point for ties and staves.

The town is surrounded by a well settled country, which produces good crops of grains, domestic grasses, clover, and a great variety of fruits and vegetables. About one hundred acres are devoted to the cultivation of strawberries, and the acreage of apple, peach, pear and plum trees within a radius of four or five miles is constantly increasing. The marketing facilities are looked after by the Cove Fruit and Truck Growers' Association, enabling the growers to ship their produce in car load lots.

Through this organization the markets for early and late produce have been made readily accessible.

WICKES, ARK.—Has about 300 inhabitants, four general stores, two hotels, two drug stores, one exclusive hardware store, one confectionery, one lumber yard, planing mill and sawmill, cotton gin, grist mill and livery stable. It also has a good public school and several church organizations.

The land adjoining the town is gently rolling, well watered, and not only adapted to general farming purposes but especially adapted to horticulture. In addition to the many orchards and berry fields conducted by individual farmers, Mess. Hunt Bros. & Co., of St. Joseph, Mo., purchased last year 838 acres and have planted on this land 90 acres in strawberries and 150 acres in peach trees. The gentlemen who have undertaken this enterprise are merchants engaged in the handling of fruit and commercial truck, and are doing their work thoroughly and scientifically and have the best demonstration orchard in Western Arkansas at the present time; about 800 acres are planted to fruits and berries.

GRANNISS, ARK.—This town has a population of about 600, six general stores, a substantial bank, one exclusive grocery, one exclusive hardware store, two hotels, two planing mills, a cotton gin, two custom mills, livery stable, meat market, three churches, and a good public school.

The soil conditions are very similar to the other places mentioned. About one hundred acres in berries and five hundred acres in

peaches have been planted in the last few years. Mr. T. C. Brown has 488 acres of land adjoining the townsite and has planted 200 acres in orchard, and other improvements valued at \$45,000, among which is a complete up-to-date poultry ranch on which are bred 3,000 White Plymouth Rock and White Leghorn chickens. The Granniss Star Fruit Company, composed of gentlemen from Oelwein, Iowa, have a magnificent orchard of more than 150 acres, and among the individual orchard owners are Mr. Jno. P. Logan, with 4,000 bearing trees; Mr. J. E. Schooley, 4,000 bearing trees; Lee & Spikes, with 6,000 bearing trees, and J. H. Gibbs, with 5,000 trees. Smaller orchards of 300 to 1,000 trees are numerous, and it is safe to say that there are 100,000 peach trees adjacent to this town. Quite recently Mess. Coyle & Hogan, of Chicago, purchased several thousand acres and have planted more than 4,000 fruit trees.

HATFIELD, ARK.—Population, 950; situated in a fine agricultural region producing corn, cotton, grain, forage, fine fruits and truck. The latter are extensively grown and poultry and eggs yield a considerable income, but cotton, corn, grain and forage are the principal crops. There are at Hatfield good schools and several churches, a number of business houses, a brick yard, three sawmills and planing mills, a cotton gin, a roller flour mill, and a combination cotton gin and grist mill. Indications of lead and zinc have been found in the vicinity, and coal outcroppings have also been found. The manufacture of lumber and of hardwood ties and staves is the principal industrial pursuit.

A Tale of the Aztec Migration

F. E. ROESLER

The traditions of the Aztecs imply that their people came to Mexico from the far North in successive migrations. The existence of the Pueblo tribes in New Mexico and Arizona leads to the conclusion that some of the Aztec tribes remained behind either as garrisons or stragglers. Of the routes taken southward, one in all probability would have been by way of El Paso, skirting the Gallinas, Jicarilla, White, Sacramento and Hueco mountains to the Rio Grande, and of such a migration there is still a dim tradition among the Pueblo Indians.

The Hueco mountains are situated about thirty miles north of El Paso, Texas, and can be seen plainly from that point. According to the tradition, Diabolo canon (the devil's gorge)—and the old gentleman seems to possess several of them in the mountains of New Mexico) appears to be rather an uncanny piece of real estate. According to the description, this canon is a deep defile in the mountains, which the Gods of old, in their wrath, had torn asunder from top to bottom. The walls and cliffs are almost perpendicular, presenting an unbroken front so high that one-half of the canon which is less than a quarter of a mile

wide, is always in the shade. The sun sets an hour or two earlier here than elsewhere and rises later in the morning. The canon's bottom is covered with rich grass, and there disport themselves numerous antelope. We wanted our guide to conduct us through this canon but he demurred.

Says old Mariano, a member of the Chihua tribe of Isleta, Texas: "It is not good to be present at the fightings of the dead, nor is it good to go to the Diabolo canon for any purpose or to stay there at night. There is a tradition among our people to the effect that two hundred years ago or more, a hunting party from our village went to this canon to hunt antelope. They camped at the base of a cliff half a mile high. Their hunt had been successful, and in the shadow of the cliff they went to sleep for the night. The moon was overhead and shining bright as day. Everything was peaceful and not even could there be heard the howl of the coyote, which is always heard when there is fresh meat in camp. The night winds were so gentle that not even were stirred the blades of the gramma grass, when our people suddenly awoke amid the terrible up-

roar and the din of a battle going on over and about them. Their first thought was of Apaches or Comanches and they seized their bows and lances and made ready for the fight, but the warriors they saw were not of flesh and blood. A shadowy host of dusky warriors, clad in heavy armor of cotton wadding, rushed over them and trod them under foot, yet they felt not the weight. From a turn in the canon came other warriors. Our people saw the thousands in bloody conflict, saw the serrated swords clash down on the shields of buffalo hide, saw the spears flying through the air, heard the twang of the bowstring and the hurdling flight of the arrows, heard the shrieks of the wounded and the groans of the dying; and as the contending warriors passed over our terror-stricken people again and again, many a blow from a battle axe, spear and sword fell upon them, but they felt them not, though they saw the canon strewn with wounded and dead. Then came a hand-to-hand struggle in which the phantom warriors dashed their shields into each others' faces and struck each other down with sword and war club. Then our people heard the blood-curdling cry of the victors, and with a rush like a tornado, victor and vanquished disappeared behind the next turn of the canon. Behind them they left a wind-row of dead and dying, and a blast of ice cold wind that froze one to the marrow.

"These warriors were not of our people, nor were they Comanches or Apaches, for their dress was unlike ours or theirs, and they used swords of wood in which were set, like the teeth in a saw, pieces of iztli (obsidian or volcanic glass), sharp as knives. Their war cry had a familiar sound yet was not our own. Our elders of the time said that according to tradition ten generations before their time, in the days when the Pueblos were a migratory nation, a tribe of our forefathers marched southward through this canon and that their departure was opposed by other tribes. But it is not good to witness such sights, for immediately after their departure there came a storm of dust, and from the highest crag there came crashing down a rock, as big as a house, and killed all of our people but one, who, terror-stricken, ran ten leagues to Chihua (Isleta), and carried home the news. The Spanish padre said that our people had transgressed, had hunted on a feast day and were punished for their sins. Quien sabe? No Chihua Indian has been in Diabolo canon since, who has not been bitten by a snake, struck by an Apache arrow, or attacked by a mountain lion. After a rain, the bottom of the canon is full of arrowheads, spearheads and pieces of iztli; but, indeed, it is well to leave unto the dead that which belongs to the dead."

"Mil gracias. These cigars are good!"

Letters from Along the Line

TEXAS CITRUS GROWERS ASSOCIATION.
Office of President.

Beaumont, Tex.
December 30, 1909.

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of the recent number of "Current Events" and must congratulate you upon the whole, for the completeness of the information contained therein, but I am surprised at the figures given under the Beaumont head of orchard planting, the totals, with the exception of pecan trees, not being equal to my personal planting and I am but a small factor in the orchard development of this part of your territory.

There were planted in Jefferson County last year by Beaumont and Port Arthur residents 40,000 orange trees, 32,000 fig trees and about 12,000 pecan trees. Mr. John W. Gates alone planted 12,000 fig trees.

For next season's planting to my knowledge there are now placed orders for fifty thousand fig trees, eight thousand orange trees, five hundred grape fruit trees and five hundred commercial lemons. The growing of figs and oranges for preserves and marmalades, promises to be a great industry in this section, not only along your line, but on the Gulf and Interstate, the soil conditions along the two roads between Beaumont and the Gulf being specially fitted for these fruits. Ample capital is in sight and plans are laid to make this an industry that will at once take commercial prominence as

soon as the trees come into bearing, which will be next year for the first planting of figs, which were made some eighteen months ago.

Yours truly,
GEO. A. SMITH.

De Ridder, La.
December 27th, 1909.

Dear Sir:

About four hundred acres of new land have been broken this year for farming purposes. As you know, this is forest country and the land does not become available until the lumber companies have removed the timber. There are now several hundreds of acres open for settlement and the average cost of these lands is about \$5 per acre. I hope to see them settled upon soon by an industrious, thrifty class of people. There are seven miles south of here some 20,000 acres which, we hope, will soon be colonized. At Pickering, 12 miles north, another large tract is already being colonized.

Our town, De Ridder, is steadily growing. Several new cottages are being built by newcomers. A light and water supply for the town is looked for soon. The other new enterprises are a new hotel in course of construction, two new stores opened, a new theater, new steam bakery. One of the new stores is a saddle and harness shop.

Respectfully yours,
FRANK V. HOWARD.

Lanagan, McDonald Co., Mo.

January 31, 1910.
Thinking that it might interest the readers of "Current Events" to know a little more about Lanagan, I have undertaken to give you a short description of it. The population of the town is about 450, most of whom are engaged in pursuits incidental to a rural community. In the adjacent country, general farming and fruit-growing on a commercial basis and raising fine live stock and poultry are the engrossing pursuits. One of the orchards of the Ozark Orchard Co., comprising about one thousand acres of apple and peach trees, is located here. Berry culture is a very large and profitable business, and the annual shipments from this and adjoining stations amount to over one hundred car loads.

The country surrounding Lanagan, is one of great beauty, abounding in scenic rocky bluffs, rugged and steep hills, clear mountain streams and hundreds of large springs, of the purest water. It is particularly fine for a summer outing, and Indian Creek, our largest stream, affords splendid fishing. Artesian sulphur wells, bored several years ago and still flowing, have waters of great medicinal value and are particularly good in the treatment of kidney trouble, diseases of the stomach, rheumatism, neuralgia and skin diseases. Locally these wells are highly esteemed. It is the opinion of many that there is oil in this vicinity, and the Indian Creek Oil and Mining Co. and The Elk River Oil & Gas Co. have been organized to operate in this field. A cannery is to be built during the present summer and a new hotel has been completed.

Respectfully,
C. R. WORTHAM.

Benson, La.
December 24th, 1909.

Dear Sir:

This section of Louisiana has not received its deserved attention, and I take the liberty of writing you a few facts in regard to the possibilities at and near Benson. There are about one and one-half thousand acres of land near here that could be bought for from five to ten dollars per acre, with a small payment down and the rest in three to five years. This land will bring more than enough the first year to pay for clearing and cultivating. Almost any crop will do well and yield a large profit under proper agricultural methods. The landowners will offer specially attractive propositions to renters or buyers who are willing workers and understand modern methods of farming. Last spring, a number of farmers went together in an organization known as the Benson Truck and Fruit Growers Association, and planted Irish potatoes for the first crop. The spring was somewhat cool and damp, but the average yield was shown to be ninety bushels to the acre, for which the farmer received ninety cents per bushel, cash on board cars here. This is one of the numerous crops that have been shown to be money makers for the farmer. Cotton is the main crop with most farmers, but it is said that

they are beginning to see the necessity of raising other things besides cotton and are turning their attention to truck and feed stuff to a larger extent than ever before and the result is very pleasing. The health conditions are unexcelled, there not being a single death this year from a population of about three hundred. There is a good public school and two churches here. The above information is correct and can be relied upon by your office for colonization purposes.

Yours truly,
J. D. PORTER.

Stotesbury, Mo.
January 15, 1910.

Dear Sir:

Our little town is located in the west half of Vernon County, Missouri, three miles east of the Kansas state line and 89 miles south of Kansas City, Mo. It is on the Kansas City Southern Railway and is in the midst of one of the most productive farming and stock raising sections of the Middle West. It is a great grain and forage country, and some of the finest high grade live stock in the state is produced in Vernon County. Our principal crops are corn, wheat, oats, flax, clover, timothy, alfalfa, etc., and a complete crop failure has never been known in this county.

The present population of Stotesbury is between 425 and 500, but the community has good graded schools, churches, a bank, three general stores, two hardware stores, two implement and two grocery stores, two hotels, one lumber yard and several smaller industries. Oil, gas and coal are abundant, and several gas wells are in regular use. Coal is found at a depth of 200 feet and oil has been found in a number of wells. Shale splendidly adapted to the making of brick, tile and terra cotta is plentiful, and samples of earthenware, bricks, etc., have proven good under the usual tests. A tile factory would find all the needed raw material here and could do a good business. Our timber supply is along the Little Osage River, and consists in the main of oak, walnut, hickory, ash, etc.; our pine lumber coming from the Southern mills.

We are here in a splendid country and the outlook for Stotesbury as a town is good. We are well established and have the conveniences and social conditions of an old settled region. Our stock farms are large and we have room for more good people, and when passing through the country in search of a new location, the reader of this letter can't go far amiss by stopping here a few days and seeing what we have. We had in cultivation last year, 1909, sixteen thousand acres of land, of which 5,500 acres were in corn, 1,000 in small grain, 9,000 in pasture and hay, 400 in fruits, and 100 in commercial truck, and we shipped from our railroad station 20 car loads of corn, 3 of oats, 5 of wheat, 7 of cattle, 47 of hogs, 2 of sheep and goats, 24,000 pounds of poultry, 295 cases of eggs of 30 dozen each, and 1,500 pounds of wool, which will convey an idea of what our farming is like.

Respectfully,
D. A. BECK.

Joplin, Mo.
December 31, 1909.

Dear Sir:

I would like to give definite information to your inquiry, but in a city of 45,000 inhabitants it is difficult to ascertain this correctly, and to obtain reliable information concerning the rural improvements is still more difficult. I understand that the ground is to be broken for the Newman Building, 100 by 120 feet, four stories or more on Monday next. This building is to be used exclusively by the Newman firm for a department store. I do not know the exact cost, but understand that it will be something like \$300,000. It will be one of the best equipped stores in this part of the country. Many smaller business houses and residences have been built in the past few months.

At the present time no less than ten or twelve concentrating mills are under course of construction. The tariff question is about settled and the prices of our ores are advancing steadily and we are getting back to our old time prosperity. Everything looks favorable for the near future.

A splendid Amusement Park has been constructed this year and is now in operation. The cost has been \$100,000, and it is having an enormous patronage. We are completing the viaduct from East to West Joplin, which crosses the K. C. S. tracks, and will save much inconvenience by diverting the travel to the overhead line. Crops are good and the farmers are prosperous. There is considerable demand for good miners as many new mines are being opened up. I regret being unable to give you statistical figures, but this is the best I can do at present.

If a circle were drawn within 100 miles of Joplin, it would cover a district that produces annually over \$100,000,000 worth of products. This includes not only farm products and zinc and lead, but oil, gas and coal, which are at the very door of Joplin.

Joplin has five railroads radiating in all directions, and is the gateway to that wonderful undeveloped country to the Southwest, the West and the South, which country promises to be the garden spot of the world, for underlying its rich agricultural fields are minerals, oil and gas.

Joplin is supplied with natural gas at 10 cents per thousand feet for manufacturing purposes, and at 25 cents per thousand feet for domestic purposes. This gas is piped from the State of Kansas.

Joplin has the cheapest of electricity for power and lights. This is supplied from water power on Spring River and Shoal Creek.

The immense coal fields of Kansas and Missouri are near at hand, and the railroads deliver this coal to Joplin at 50 cents per ton. The population of Joplin has doubled in the last ten years and now is 45,000 people. It

is a cosmopolitan city in every respect. It has seven banks, three daily newspapers, twenty-two hotels, and is the fourth city in the State of Missouri, and is located 1,050 feet above sea level.

There is no district in the world that is as rich in natural resources as is this section of the country. Its mineral output averages about \$15,000,000 annually, of the highest grade lead and zinc ores.

The soil of this district makes Jasper County rank as one of the foremost counties of the great State of Missouri in raising farm products. The surplus farm products of Jasper County alone amount in value to \$4,000,000 annually.

The farm production and the mineral production of Jasper County aggregate \$19,000,000 surplus products annually. This output is greater than the gold production of each and every state and territory in the Union, except the State of Colorado, which in 1907 was \$21,000,000. This output is also greater than the silver output of each and every state and territory in the Union.

The Commercial Club of Joplin is always alert to the interests of the city, stands ready to extend the glad hand to any and all investors, and has a fund by which it can assist in the material development of the manufacturing interest of the city.

Mena, Ark.
December 27, 1909.

Dear Sir:

During the past two years there have been constructed in Mena, the following described buildings: Lockridge Bldg., double store, 2 stories, brick, \$15,000, lot value \$2,900; Lockridge Bldg., 1-story brick, \$3,500, lot value \$1,750; Gardner Bldg., 2 story, 75 feet front, \$11,000, lot value \$5,000; Jackson Bldg., 3-story Brick, 50 feet front, \$14,000, lot value \$4,000; Elks Home, 2-story brick \$14,000, lot value \$3,000; Regan Bldg., \$5,000, lot value \$650; M. E. Church, South, Brick, \$12,000, lot value \$1,000; High School Bldg., \$13,000, lot value \$1,200; Hamilton Bldg., 3 brick buildings \$7,100, lot value \$5,000; Robert Bldg., \$6,000, lot value \$1,500; Little John Bldg., \$4,000, lot value \$1,000; York Bldg., 2-story brick, \$4,000, lot value \$1,000; Tobin Bldg., 2-story brick, \$5,000, lot value \$1,500; Blocksom Bldg., \$3,000, lot value \$1,500; Salyers Barn, 2-story concrete, \$5,000, lot value \$2,000; Patrick Bldg., \$3,500, lot value \$900; Petty Bldg., \$3,500, lot value \$900; Sale Bldg., \$3,500, lot value \$900; Vandyver Bldg., concrete, \$2,300, lot value \$500; Mena Sewer System, not yet completed, already expended \$15,000; Ben. Strauss, sanitary concrete slaughter house, \$3,500; Mountain City Canning Factory, \$3,000; Mena Box Factory, \$4,000; Buildings, \$159,900, lot values, \$36,200; total, \$196,100.

Yours truly,
GEO. B. DENNIS.

Agricultural Notes

THE POSSIBLE PROFIT ON ONE ACRE.

In September, 1908, a Frenchman living in Kansas City, Mo., who claims not to be familiar with the intensive farming in use in France, established a vegetable garden, since known as the Trial Acre. The man plowed one acre, working two days. His charge with team was \$8.00. Another man worked two days sowing seed of radishes, spinach and onions. He was paid at the rate of \$25 a month, and an allowance was made for his board and lodging at \$18 a month.

An agreement was entered into by the owner to keep account of every penny expended for a year, to do no transplanting and to work the ground as if it were the possession of one who must find his actual living elsewhere. With the exception of that for plowing and harrowing, there were no labor costs except for the \$25-a-month-man.

The total fall and winter expenses were \$108.75; total expenses, spring and summer, \$365.75; grand total expense, \$504.50.

The gross income for October 14, 1908, to October 14, 1909, was \$1,511.35. A profit was thus left of \$1,196.85.

The owner says that he left everything to the common sense of his gardener, who, under instructions, was constrained to spend only one or two hours each day upon the work and to do the marketing twice a week. There was some bad weather, an excess of rain in July and August, and in early September a drouth. If the farming was really as amateurish as it was attempted to make it, the showing is certainly remarkable, even though the tract was in the city and the distance to market amounted to nothing.

SOME STRAWBERRY CROPS.—Mr. J. M. Collins, of Decatur, Ark., in a recent letter stated that the following results had been obtained at Decatur in the cultivation of strawberries; the growers all being residents: J. L. Denton, from 4½ acres, \$1,247.20, average per acre, \$277.15; S. P. Londagin, from 3¾ acres, \$1,348.00, average per acre, \$359.46; G. F. Abercrombie, from 4 acres, \$1,467.72, average per acre, \$366.93; J. R. Hitch, from ½ acre, \$324.36, average per acre, \$649.20; W. H. Clark, from 1½ acres, \$505.28, average per acre, \$336.65; J. M. Buckner, from 3 acres, \$1,195.14, average per acre, \$398.38; John Smith, from 2½ acres, \$710.52, average per acre, \$284.00; Sam J. Whiteside, from 2 acres, \$600, average per acre, \$300; M. B. Evans, from 1½ acres, \$566.58, average per acre, \$377.72; H. E. Clark, from 2¾ acres, \$746.40, average per acre, \$271.05.

Much unimproved land within three or four miles of Decatur can be bought at \$7 to \$15 per acre.

SOME FIGURES ON RICE CULTIVATION.—The Government estimates on the rice crop for 1909, just printed, give the following figures: In acreage and production Louisiana outstrips all other states combined. Of the 720,000 acres planted, Louisiana had 375,000

acres; and of the 24,368,000 bushels, or 6,092,000 sacks produced, Louisiana contributed 12,675,000 bushels or 3,168,750 sacks. Texas came next with 291,000 acres and 9,894,000 bushels or 2,473,500 sacks.

Arkansas contributed 1,120,000 bushels or 280,000 sacks to the total, while South Carolina is credited with 476,000 bushels or 119,000 sacks. Georgia produced 25,000 sacks, Alabama, 8,750; Mississippi, 7,500; Florida, 6,250; and North Carolina, 3,750; Louisiana having single plantations that exceeded all of them put together in acreage and production. The gain in production over 1908, was 620,000 sacks.

Rice forms the chief cereal food of about one-half of the world's population, and wheat the chief cereal food of the other half. Curiously enough, the quantity of these two cereals produced differs apparently but little; the latest estimate placing the world's rice crop at or about 175,000,000,000 pounds, and the wheat crop at about 190,000,000,000 pounds.

FRUIT SHIPMENTS, 1909.—At the annual meeting of the Ozark Association various reports on last year's crop and estimates on the coming crop were given. Present estimates suggest that the Ozark Association will market practically the same number of cars of berries as in the past year, when 397 cars were shipped. Mr. Starcher, of Aroma, Mo., made mention of the results of growing 60 acres in cantaloupes during the past season. In the face of the drouth, the growers produced seven cars which sold at 35 cents to \$2.50 per crate, giving a net profit of about \$100 per acre in favorable instances.

During the past season the 397 cars of berries shipped through the Ozark Association brought an average price of \$1.92 per 24-quart crate; 364 cars were sold and 33 cars consigned. The highest price received was \$2.75 and the lowest \$1.00. The first car from Missouri was shipped from Seneca, May 20th, and the first car from Arkansas went from Morrilton, April 29th; on June 17th the last cars were shipped from Marionville and Sarcocoxie, Mo. Reports made by growers present at the meeting indicated approximately 30 to 40 per cent damage to berry plants by last summer's drouth, and also that the acreage had probably been increased 20 to 25 per cent, because of the profitability of the industry during the past few years.

The apple crop in the Ozark region was scant in 1909, but in some localities an excellent crop was obtained. The Darby Fruit Farm at Amoret, Mo., yielded a crop of 45,000 bushels of apples, of which 95 per cent was A No. 1 stock. Eighty-two car loads were shipped to the Northern cities, and 6,000 bushels were retailed at the farm. Gravette, Ark., marketed 68 car loads. Several car loads of lower grades were shipped to other towns before the local vinegar factories started up. The valuation of the Gravette crop is safely placed as follows: 35 car loads shipped, 15,750 bushels, average

for Phoenix Furniture Co., \$25,000. Incorporated: Vogue Dry Goods Co., \$3,000.

BARHAM, LA.—The Pickering Lumber Company has installed in its mill a new 125-horse-power engine and the largest band saw in Louisiana, the same weighing 34,000 pounds.

DE QUEEN, ARK.—The municipal waterworks bonds have been sold and the construction of the plant is well under way. The new lumber mill of the Dierks Lumber & Coal Co., being built to replace the plant destroyed by fire, will be constructed of steel and concrete. The Cumberland Oil Co. of Marietta has filed for record twenty-two oil leases, covering 1,760 acres of land east of De Queen. The Prairie Oil & Gas Company will lay 50 miles of pipeline in this (Sevier) county. A hotel company has been organized, capital \$15,000. Incorporated: De Queen Light and Ice Company, \$50,000; takes over the plant of the old light and ice company for \$18,750. The Prairie Oil & Gas Company has obtained State permission to lay a pipeline through the State of Arkansas. De Queen has been designated as the business headquarters of the company in Arkansas. The White Cliffs Portland Cement Company's plant at White Cliffs, in Little River County, has been purchased by Frank B. Lane, of Little Rock, Ark., and associates in Arkansas and Texas from the Fidelity Trust Co., of Kansas City, Mo. The purchase comprises 2,500 acres of land, of which 500 acres are chalk formation. The purchasers have organized a holding company and propose to organize a manufacturing company, with a capital of \$3,000,000, within a year, for the purpose of manufacturing cement. The capacity of the proposed plant is to be 3,000 barrels of cement per day. Incorporated: De Queen Laundry Co., \$6,000. The Prairie Oil & Gas Co. will erect here at their pumping station an engine house, storage tanks and three substantial brick buildings. A telephone line running parallel with their pipeline to Baton Rouge, La., is now under construction.

DE QUINCEY, LA.—Mr. A. Hamilton, of Houston, in behalf of himself and others, has selected a location here for a seventy-five-room hotel. Organized: The Bank of De Quincey, \$50,000. The Commercial Club has completed arrangements for a large sawmill at this point; construction to begin February 1st, 1910.

DE RIDDER, LA.—Incorporated: W. A. Brown Lumber Co., \$10,000. The Johnson Steam Laundry has completed its brick building, and the plant is now in operation. Organized: A waterworks company. E. J. Tegarden has added 10 rooms to his house and will open a new hotel.

DREXEL, MO.—A rock crusher has been installed here and is furnishing most of the material used here in concrete work. A new poultry house in business. Seven new dwellings in October, \$7,000.

DECATUR, ARK.—Incorporated: Decatur Mutual Telephone Co.

ELK SPRINGS, MO.—Lot purchased for a club house. New blacksmith shop.

FORT SMITH, ARK.—Incorporated: Bank of Commerce, \$25,000; Arkansas Valley Oil & Gas Co., \$50,000; Fort Smith, St. Louis & Chicago Ry. Co., \$2,500,000. The new Fort

Smith Vitrified Brick Co. is now in operation. Mr. I. H. Nakdimen, of Sallisaw, Okla., has under consideration the construction of a six-story building to cost \$100,000. The Eagle Box Co. has increased its capital from \$10,000 to \$75,000. Incorporated: Guaranty Savings Bank, \$50,000; Mazzard Land Co., \$50,000. Contract let for addition to Jewish Temple, \$6,000. Consolidated: Times and News-Record newspapers, capital stock \$100,000. Incorporated: Burke-Cowdin Building Co., \$25,000; Leonard Beck Company, \$50,000; Lewis Friedman & Co., Hotel and Real Estate, \$50,000. Incorporated: Western Investment & Development Co., \$50,000; Southern Millinery Co., manufacturing.

The Fort Smith Light & Traction Co. has increased its capital from \$1,600,000 to \$6,500,000. A very conservative estimate of building operations at Fort Smith, is that more than \$1,000,000 was expended in the construction of new buildings between January 1st and November 30th, 1909. The Rockmart Stove and Foundry Co., of Rockmart, Georgia, has moved its plant to this city, and will hereafter be known as the Fort Smith Stove Works; capital invested, \$60,000. The Modern Gin & Compress Co. of Little Rock, will erect a plant here to be financed with \$250,000, and to employ 200 persons. The Fort Smith Coffin Co. has built a new factory on Mazzard Prairie, which will employ 20 persons. The most recent new factories in Fort Smith are: The Fort Smith Novelty and Manufacturing Co., 15 employees, capital \$10,000; The Fort Smith Sign Works; The Fort Smith Vitrified Brick Company; Ballentine Milling Co.

The Fort Smith Refrigerator Company has doubled its capacity by adding 20,000 feet of floor space and new machinery. Incorporated: Automatic Switch Company, \$50,000; Millet Construction Company. The St. L. I. M. & S. Ry. will improve its passenger station at a cost of \$25,000.

GANS, OKLA.—Contract let for an 8-room school building, \$8,000.

GENTRY, ARK.—Incorporated: Bank of Springtown, \$10,000.

GOODMAN, MO.—Four-room school house under construction.

GRAVETTE, ARK.—A new steel bridge has been built over Spavinaw Creek on the Decatur-Gravette road. Johnson Bros., of Clio, Iowa, have established a broom factory.

HEAVENER, OKLA.—A new cotton gin and grist mill completed.

HUME, MO.—Mr. T. B. Fager, while boring for oil, found a five-foot bed of coal and some oil and gas at 303 feet.

JOPLIN, MO.—New concentrating mills were erected by the following named mining companies: D. S. V. T. Mining Co., 150-ton mill; Puritan Mining Co., 350-ton mill; Little Persimmon Mining Co., 150-ton mill; Mercantile Mining & Milling Co., 400-ton mill and enlarged a 150-ton mill to 300 tons; Amalgamated Lead & Zinc Co., 200-ton mill; E. T. Sweeney, mill remodeled; Douglas & Co., 500-ton mill; Hancock & Co., 150-ton mill; Nymo Mining Co., 300-ton mill; Nannie L. Land & Leasing Co., 200-ton mill; Steve Chitwood Lease, 200-ton mill; Granby Mining & Smelting

Co., 200-ton mill; Clifford Mine, 150-ton mill; Gerke & Gallagher, 400-ton mill; Nowata Mining Co., 300-ton mill; A. Freeman and M. Miller, 100-ton mill; Elnita Zinc Co., 200-ton mill; Maple Leaf Lead & Zinc Co., 250-ton mill; Ohio Mining Co., 150-ton mill; Wolfshart Mining Co., 300-ton mill; John L. Batson, 250-ton mill; Prairie Chicken Mining Co., 200-ton mill; Childress Bros., 200-ton mill; Durby Land & Zinc Co., a 200-ton mill.

Incorporated: Joplin Glove Factory, \$20,000; Durby Land & Zinc Co., \$100,000; The Pike Land Company, \$250,000; Gordon Hollow Land & Mining Co., \$60,000. The Picher Lead Company has enlarged its plant at a cost of \$15,000. The American Zinc, Lead & Smelting Co., in their annual report for 1908, show a profit of \$360,380. The Picher Investment Company has contracted to erect two buildings to cost \$100,000. Seventeen new dwellings, costing \$85,500, have been erected during the month of November, 1909. The contract has been let for the construction of the six-story Newman Building, to cost with equipment \$500,000. Municipal contract let for a sanitary sewer, \$36,851. Four new dwellings erected in December, cost \$8,000. The total value of the ores mined in the Joplin District for the year 1909, was \$14,613,048, consisting of 301,205 tons of zinc and 44,186 tons of lead. The Doherty Electric Light & Power Co. has ordered 200 miles of wire to connect all mining camps in the district. The company's new plant at Riverton, for which machinery has been ordered, will cost \$500,000. The consolidated Light, Power & Ice Company and the Spring River Power Company have been consolidated under the title of Empire District Electric Company in Missouri and Kansas. A turbine plant, of 16,000 horse power, has been installed at Spring River. The greatest weekly zinc production in the Joplin District took place during the week ending October 30, 1909, when the total output reached 7,739 tons, valued at \$366,170, and the lead tonnage reached 1,305 tons, valued at \$72,194. 1,032 acres mineral land sold by Leonard Realty Co. to Excelsior Lead, Zinc Co., \$1,000,000.

LAKE CHARLES, LA.—The Orange Land Company has sold to a New Orleans Syndicate 32,000 acres of land, same to be drained and supplied with irrigating ditches, good roads, railway connections, and to be sold to farmers in small tracts. The Union Sulphur Company has purchased a 5,400 ton steamship, 24 feet draft, for the purpose of carrying sulphur to New York and other ports. Incorporated: The Pine Ridge Plantation Co., \$50,000. The Johnson-Lyons Realty Co. have purchased 3,200 acres near Vinton, La., for \$45,000, same to be colonized. Miller Bros., of "101" Ranch, Oklahoma, have purchased 10,000 head of sheep in Calcasieu Parish, the same to be shipped to Ponca City, Okla., and be fattened for the market. Incorporated: Stubb & Hall Grocery Co., \$10,000; Calcasieu Trust & Savings Bank, \$100,000; Calcasieu-Cameron Cattle Market Co., \$10,000. Consolidated: Lake Charles Light and Waterworks Co. with Lake Charles Street Railway Co., to be hereafter

known as the Lake Charles Railway, Light and Waterworks Company, \$200,000. Incorporated: Lake Charles Homestead & Building Association, \$1,000,000; C. F. Daigle & Co., Ltd., \$25,000; American Feed Co., \$25,000. A. G. Walters, representing a wagon manufacturing company, is arranging for the location of a plant to cost \$15,000, and to employ about 50 hands. The North American Land & Timber Co. has built a large warehouse on the Lake front. Incorporated: Thomas Music and Sporting Goods Company, \$20,000. Incorporated: Calcasieu Land & Rice Co., \$100,000. Organized: Lake Charles Truck Growers' Association, Ben M. Foster, President, A. W. Ribbeck, Secretary. Incorporated: Consumers Supply Co., Oakdale, \$8,000. The Louisiana Grain & Milling Co. is installing new machinery and is enlarging its plant. The Calcasieu Irrigation Company's Canal, at Kinder, has been sold to the Calcasieu National Bank for \$50,000. Incorporated: Anacoco Valley Railway, \$25,000, by the Galloway Lumber Co. to build a tram line extending from Grabow, a short distance west of De Ridder, through the Anacoco and Sabine Valleys to Almandane, La. Incorporated: Big Five Oil Company, \$50,000. The Kinder Canal Co. has been incorporated with a capital of \$50,000, and takes over the irrigation plant of the Calcasieu River Irrigation Co. Incorporated: Oberlin Canal Co., \$75,000, to build a canal to irrigate 6,000 acres of rice lands. Dedicated November 29th, 1909, Masonic Temple costing \$25,000. Lake Charles Mercantile Co. has added a cold storage plant to its establishment, at a cost of \$9,000. This company was organized earlier in the year, with a capital of \$100,000. The Krause-Managan Lumber Co. has sold to the Peavey-Byrnes Lumber Co., of Mansfield, La., 20,000 acres of pine timber land near Oberlin, La. A double band and circular sawmill of 100,000 feet daily capacity, will be immediately built to work up this timber. The Powell Lumber Co. has purchased from the Pearl Lumber, Oil & Development Co., 2,280 acres of pine timber land at a cost of \$33,000. R. F. Jacobs and H. Taylor, of Roanoke, have purchased 640 acres from A. M. Kenney et al. for \$25,000. The Gunn-Whittlesey farm, 984 acres, has been sold to the Roanoke Development Co. for \$80,000. The Pine Ridge Plantation Co. has purchased for \$3,900 three hundred acres from D. S. Brown et al. The Independent Naval Stores Company, recently organized, has largely increased its holdings of real estate. Incorporated: Dixie Turpentine Co., \$10,000. The Calcasieu Mercantile Co. has let contracts for new warehouses and other improvements to cost \$60,000. Mr. H. Clay Riggs has purchased the plant of the Southland Turpentine Co. for \$3,000. The United Irrigation and Rice Milling Co., of Crowley, La., has let a contract to extend its canals 25 miles in Vermillion and Acadia Parishes. 10,000 acres of new lands are to be made available for settlement of farmers. Company formed to build grain elevator and mill. Incorporated: Newcaste College, \$10,000. Calcasieu Land & Rice Co. to build rice canals and improve lands near

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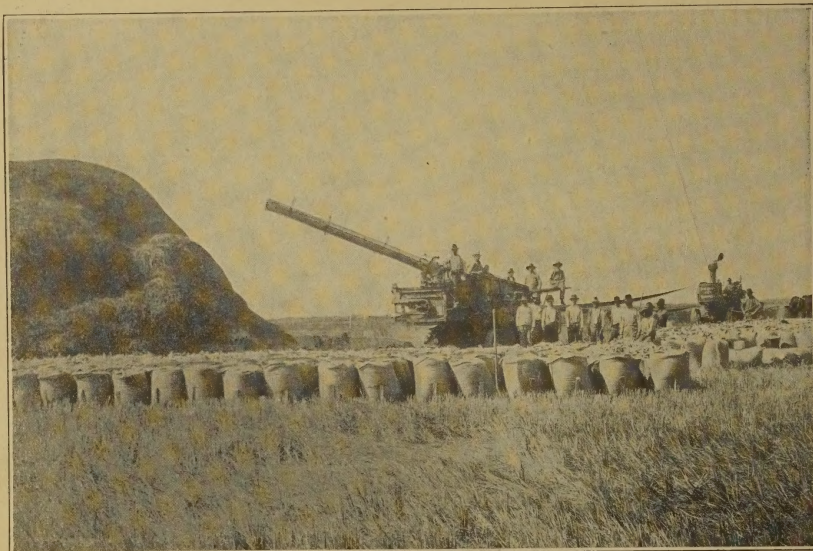
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